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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you attended or do you plan to attend the public hearing for the Saipan casino bill?

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INSIDE



Independence Day

Filipinos on Saipan commemorated the 113th Philippine Independence Day on Sunday.

LOCAL...Page 9



Aggravating Fees

Passengers hate them, but airlines can't afford to give them up—those aggravating bag fees.

BUSINESS...Page 14



Royal In-law

Pippa Middleton's social schedule Monday generated intense speculation about who—if any—one—she's dating.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

FBI: Father did not cause girls' disappearance

»Total cash reward is now \$23.5K for information on missing sisters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The FBI was able to reach in Pohnpei Ruhtik Luhk, the biological father of missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, and was convinced that the girls are not there and that he is not responsible for their disappearance.

See FBI on Page 4

Asian Accents and Pure Colors shutting down stores

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Asian Accents, which has been one of the most popular suppliers of exquisite furniture and novelty items from Bali, Indonesia and other Asian countries, will be closing its doors this month. It is the latest casualty of a weak tourism-based economy reeling from the March 11 disasters in Japan and other external factors way before that.

Its sister store, Pure Colors, will also be closing its operations.

But while Asian Accents and Pure Colors will be closing their stores in Garapan, their parent company, Treasure Inc., will remain in existence.

Grace Esquivel, retail store manager for both Asian Accents and Pure Colors, told *Saipan Tribune* that they started selling items at discounted prices—as much as 70 percent and 90 percent—since June 3.

Within days, most of the items at Asian Accents have been sold. Many of Pure Colors' clothing and other fashion items have also been sold since the sale.

Five of the employees of the stores have already been given ample notice, said Esquivel.

Asian Accents is located at

See ASIAN on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A woman looks at items on sale at Asian Accents in Garapan, which will be closing this month. Inset shows teens walking past Asian Accents' sister store, Pure Colors, which has also started selling its items on discounted prices of up to 90 percent until closure this month.

Eloy to remain with Covenant Party. **PAGE 2**

CUC justifies new base rate, claims service cost within range of region's utilities. **PAGE 3**



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Local

Eloy to remain with Covenant Party

»Admits options remain open for next gubernatorial race

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos disclosed yesterday that he will not transfer to any local political party and will remain a "solid Covenant Party member" to the end.

If he will make a decision to run in the next gubernatorial race, Inos admitted that he wants to be under the party's banner.

"I am a solid Covenant Party member and still am. I am here [in this position] because of the

support of the party and the over 6,000 folks that voted for us. I can't just walk away..." he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday during the promotional ceremony at Hopwood Junior High School where he was among the guests of honor.

"If I do exit the party...I probably [will] be the last one," said Inos.

The Covenant Party was formed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in 2001. He won twice as the gubernatorial standard-bearer of

the party in 2005 and 2009. Last year, Fitial returned to GOP, where he was a member prior to establishing the Covenant Party. Fitial is now in his third and final term in office.

Inos described himself as also among the pioneers of the party and will remain committed to its visions and missions for the people.

He revealed that the decision of Fitial to return to GOP was a personal one and is considered an "individual action" and "vol-



Inos

untary" in nature.

Despite Fitial jumping off the ship, Inos claimed that the Covenant Party is still intact and alive.

Yesterday, the lieutenant governor was also vocal in admitting that he's not too receptive of the "merger" idea being pushed by some individuals.

Just recently, members of the Blue Ribbon Committee pushing for the merger of the two parties, claimed that there are

1,077 duly signed petitions so far gathered to join GOP.

Inos confirmed hearing some members about their "individual transfer" to the Republican group, but he said he is clueless as to the acceptance and confirmation of these transfers.

He said the "merger" issue has never been brought to the party's table for discussion. "I don't know how the term merger came about, but it was never discussed within the party."

"But on the standpoint of the Covenant Party, it's very well alive and intact. In fact, we're

See ELOY on Next Page

Senate honors nurse who began career at 14

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

A woman described as one of the moving forces in the development of the Department of Public Health and who began her career in nursing at the age of 14 has received recognition some 18 years after retirement.

The Senate presented on Monday a resolution honoring Ana Ayuyu Sablan, who retired as a registered nurse in December 1993, for her contributions to the CNMI nursing and healthcare industry since she began as a nurse aide at the Rota Dispensary in 1951.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it's fitting to bestow Sablan a resolution as the CNMI celebrates Nurses Week from June 12 to 18.

Sablan's family and friends were also in the Senate chamber for the resolution presentation.

"Thank you very much everybody," Sablan said as she received a framed copy of Senate Resolution 17-53 from Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and other senators during a session.

The resolution, authored by Manglona, says the Senate will be forever grateful to Sablan "for her dedication and commitment to healthcare in the CNMI."

Sablan, now 58, relocated from Rota to Saipan in June 1952 to continue working as a nurse aide at the Chalan Kanoa Dispensary. She was promoted to senior nurse aide under the

Naval Administration Unit on Navy Hill. Four years later, she was promoted to graduate nurse at the Dr. Torres Hospital.

In 1981, Sablan was appointed acting chief nurse at the Dr. Torres Hospital. A year later, she attended Sonoma State University in California where she studied surgical nursing under a fellowship of the United Nations' World Health Organization. She went on to complete other nursing and medical courses.

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners certified her as a registered nurse on Dec. 1, 1985.

Throughout her nursing career, hospital administrators, physicians, and other experts in the medical field gave her high marks for her skills and work attitude.

"Mrs. Sablan was described as the moving force in the development of the Department of Public Health by Dr. Jose T. Villagomez, director of the Department of Public Health and Environmental Services, on December 19, 1989. Mrs. Sablan has been an integral part of the Commonwealth Health Center, the Department of Public Health, and the overall improvement of healthcare in the CNMI," Senate Resolution 17-53 reads.

Last week, the Senate also honored Crisencia Maratita Songao Burch for her 26 years of service as a nurse, a career which started when she was only 13.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Retired nurse Ana Ayuyu Sablan, fifth from right, receives a copy of a Senate resolution from Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) while Sablan's family and other senators applaud during a session on Monday.



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CUC justifies new base rate, claims service cost within range of region's utilities

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. justified yesterday the recent increase in its electric base rate, claiming the current cost for the island's electric service is in the middle of the range for Pacific island utilities.

"In early 2011, according to Pacific Power Association [PPA], the lowest electric tariff was Fiji at \$0.17 per kWh and the highest was Wallis & Futuna at \$1.07/kWh. Fiji is a middle income country while Wallis & Futuna is a French territory," stated CUC in a statement yesterday.

PPA revealed the following service costs in other Pacific island utilities: Guam, \$0.21000 per kWh; Oahu, \$0.30340 per kWh; Maui, \$0.35580 per kWh; Hawaii, \$0.40192 per kWh;

Molokai, \$0.41043 per kWh; Lanai, \$0.43541 per kWh; Kauai, \$0.44385 per kWh; and CUC, \$0.37650 per kWh.

CUC said that while Guam's rate is lower than the CNMI's, Guam does not have to maintain a fully functioning power system on more than one island unlike CUC which provides power to Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Guam, CUC said, also burns heavy fuel which is cheaper than diesel.

According to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae, the agency paid 5 percent of its total income for maintenance; 6.41 percent was paid to the IPPs that run power plant 4 and Tinian; 6.42 percent was paid for employees' salaries; and 2.84 percent for miscellaneous expenses.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission last June 6 approved a new base rate, which CUC said is its first rate

increase since 2006.

Under the new base rate, average customers who use up to 500 kilowatt hours monthly should expect to see monthly increase of between \$1.77 and \$2.52 from the new electric base charge.

For larger residential users up to 1,00 kWh, customers can expect a 2.2 percent increase—or approximately \$8.52 per month.

CUC said that for residential users up to 2,000 kWh, they can expect a 3-percent increase—or approximately \$24.52 per month.

Small commercial businesses should expect to pay another \$5.39 to \$9.39 up to 500 kWh, and another \$17.39 for up to 1,000 kWh per month. Larger businesses will be paying approximately \$33.39 more per month for up to 2,000 kWh and \$49.39 for up to 3,000 kWh.

Customer's bill is comprised of leveled adjustment energy clause which pays for the fuel cost and base rate which is utilized in paying for power plants maintenance, personnel, independent power producers, and other operational expenses.

ELOY

From Page 2

putting out candidates both in the next delegate election and the midterm elections," he confirmed.

Inos disclosed that Covenant Party is in the process of forming a candidates' committee to look at the possible individuals who may represent the party in midterm polls.

He said "good members" of the community will be screened out for possible seats in the next elections.

The Covenant Party's Joseph Norita Camacho lost to incumbent Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan in the 2009 delegate elections.

'Neither confirm nor deny'

Inos yesterday neither confirmed nor denied about his plans for the next gubernatorial election.

However, he emphasized that it's too early to confirm a "decision" at this point in time.

"I would like to be able to answer that question...but I want to spend my time for now in trying to help the administration solutions to our economic problems and working with members of the Legislature," he said.

Inos, however, pointed out that: "I cannot confirm or deny about running [in the next election]...because I'd like to continue helping our people. I will be willing to consider some-

thing if our people call for it."

He said he's leaving his options open on the issue.

Because Inos has served in different capacities in the government, as well as served as acting governor when Fitial is not available, the lieutenant governor believes that he is an effective leader.

MISSING SISTERS

Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Maleina
Age: 9 years old
Height: 4 feet
Weight: 50-60 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Characteristics: Circle birthmark left cheek
Last wearing: White blouse and jeans



Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Faloma
Age: 10 years old
Height: 5.1 feet
Weight: 90 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Short brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Last wearing: Light green shirt with a butterfly design on the front with blue jeans



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Certified question to court on legality of local casino bill mulled

»As 6 public hearings wrap up with low attendance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some key Saipan lawmakers are considering submitting a certified question to the court to determine whether a local bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan is constitutional or not, a move that the Senate leadership may also "consider" jointly with the delegation "after the bill passes."

This, as Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Ways and Means wrapped up six public hearings on House Local Bill 17-44 on Monday night at the Pedro P.

Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The last one didn't draw a large crowd but was larger than the previous five hearings. Of the 12 who testified on Monday night, six were against the casino bill, four were in support of it, and two were neutral.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said yesterday that the lingering concerns raised by members of the public as well as the Senate on the bill's constitutionality can only be resolved by the court.

He said resorting to lawsuit will be costly and time-consuming, so he con-

siders submission of a certified question and hopes that delegation members will agree to it.

The Senate leadership indicated that it will bring the matter to court once the casino bill passes the delegation.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), chairman of the delegation's Ways and Means Committee, said he's also been asked by some members to consider a certified question to court.

"If there's no objection, I will suggest that the question be posed to the court," he said.

But he said lawmakers are in a peculiar situation because most certified questions

are submitted by the House and Senate; for the local casino bill, the question may have to be posed jointly by the Saipan delegation and the Senate.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview yesterday, said it may be a waste of time to be thinking about submitting a certified question when the casino bill has not even been acted on by the delegation.

But he said he will "seriously consider" joining the delegation in submitting a certified question to court "after the casino bill passes" the House.

He reiterated that the Senate will take the delegation to court if and when it passes the bill—and not after the governor acts on it.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan delegation's

JGO Committee, said submitting a certified question will be a good option rather than having a lawsuit filed after the bill is passed.

But Palacios said he had already brought this up with the chief justice, who he said did not want to comment on the bill after the Senate leadership had already made public its intention of bringing the matter to court when the delegation passed the measure.

At this time, however, the delegation is not expected to act soon on Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) HLB 17-44 because the two committees have yet to submit a report on the bill.

Palacios and Yumul said the need time to compile and transcribe the comments received during the May 31 to June 13 public hearings. Yumul said a report may be ready in early August.

Mayor questions legality of Local Law 17-8

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mayor Donald G. Flores defended his appointment of Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Ralph Yumul, saying that the constitution allows him to appoint anybody he deems qualified to take over his position if he is off-island.

Flores further asserted that Saipan Local Law 17-8, which allows that the council chair become acting mayor when the Saipan mayor is physically absent from the island, is "unconstitutional."

"Under the Constitution, I have the discretion to appoint anybody. I will continue to follow my constitutional mandate," Flores said yesterday at the Hard Rock Café Guns & Hoses event.

According to Flores, Article VI section 2 of the Constitution established the Mayor's Office as a political office while section 6 created the non-political office of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

"What Saipan Local Law 17-8 es-

entially does is cross over the line that separates a political office from a non-political office," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "By mandating the Mayor of Saipan to appoint a presiding officer of the Municipal Council, SLL 17-8 crosses the line that the NMI Constitution set up between the two offices."

Flores emphasized that the mayor should be given the discretion to appoint an acting mayor.

"This discretion assures the Mayor of Saipan that the business of the office is

faithfully and responsibly carried out consistent with his authority as a constitutionally elected mayor. To require a non-political council member to execute the responsibilities of a political office is taking a stab at the heart of Article VI, section 2. It bridges the line that voters approved to separate a non-political and political offices," he



Flores

explained.

Flores added that the local law, which mandates the designation of the chairman of the Saipan local delegation, who is a member of the Legislative Branch, to also serve as acting mayor "appears to violate the separation of powers."

The mayor said the only way to fix the conflict on the local law and the Constitution is through constitutional convention.

"Until a constitutional convention happens where delegates discuss this, put it on the ballots for the people to vote on it, then I will still appoint whoever I see fit when I'm on off-island trips," he said.

Flores noted that he has nothing against Council chair Ramon B. Camacho. "It's just about the legality of this law."

He also said that he was not given the opportunity to give his comments before the law was enacted.

"I will abide by the Constitution until this issue is resolved by the Supreme Court," he added.

Drunk domestic violence suspect drops knife after cop warns him of pepper mace

An alleged drunk man who beat up his wife dropped his knife when a police officer threatened to spray him with pepper mace at a residence in Koblerville on Thursday night.

John West Teregeyo, 39, was secured by two police officers after he dropped the knife.

Teregeyo was taken to the Superior Court on Monday afternoon for bail hearing on charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that on Thursday at 10:46pm, two police officers responded to Koblerville after receiving a call about a domestic violence.

Pangelinan said when the officers arrived at the scene, a woman who was shaking ran to the patrol vehicle and begged to the officers to take away the drunken Teregeyo.

As the officers approached Teregeyo, the defendant refused to leave the premises.

While one officer was interviewing the wife, the second officer noticed Teregeyo holding a knife.

The first officer pulled his pepper mace and threatened he would spray it at him if he would not drop the knife.

Teregeyo dropped the weapon, prompting the officers to secure him.

The victim said while she was at her sister's house in San Vicente, Teregeyo came drunk, started bothering her and threatened to beat her up.

The victim took their children and along with her sister proceeded to the latter's house in Koblerville.

Teregeyo followed in Koblerville where he slapped his wife on the face and threatened to beat her up. The sister called the police. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FBI

From Page 1

As this developed, Pacific Amusement Inc., an amusement service provider on Saipan and Guam, yesterday offered a \$10,000 cash reward for information that leads to the discovery of the missing sisters, bringing the total cash reward in this case to \$23,500.

As of press time yesterday, FBI and CNMI search teams failed again to locate the girls. Today marks the third week since they were reported missing near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

FBI special agent Tom Simon told *Saipan Tribune* last night that at the re-

quest of the FBI, the U.S. State Department in Pohnpei interviewed Ruhtik Luhk at the U.S. Embassy late Monday.

"Following that interview, the FBI is comfortable that the missing girls are not on Pohnpei nor did the father cause their disappearance," said Simon who is the FBI Honolulu media relations coordinator.

Asked if Ruhtik Luhk is cleared in the investigation, Simon said they don't talk about who is cleared and who is not cleared.

"We always reserve the right to go back and investigate further if something else should come up," he said. "We don't discuss suspects. But I could tell you that from our prospective that

angle in this investigation is something we moved on from."

Ruhtik Luhk, 40, is a former Saipan police officer and a corrections officer. He reportedly moved to Pohnpei in 2006 and has never returned to Saipan.

The biological mother of the girls is Jermain Quitugua. Jermain's father, Elbert Quitugua, and his wife Jane, have been taking care of Faloma and Maleina for almost three years now, since their mother moved to Guam.

Pacific Amusement Inc. general manager James Gebhard told *Saipan Tribune* that the \$10,000 reward is also for information that will lead to the prosecution of the person responsible for the girls' disappearance.

Gebhard said they are hoping that with the cash reward "some leads will start shaking out."

"Somebody might decide to talk. And another thing, we all have kids and we don't want that to happen to somebody else," he said.

Gebhard said this tragedy affects the entire community.

"We all have children at risk and it's imperative that the person or persons responsible for this action be brought to justice," he said.

"We're heartbroken just like everyone. We hope they are found soon and in good shape. Our prayers are with them everyday," the general manager said.

Pacific Amusement has been operating in the CNMI since 1994. Their company in the CNMI and Guam op-

erates electronic dartboards, pool tables, Internet jukebox, video games, poker machines, crane machines, cherry masters, ATM terminals, and many others.

The \$13,500 other cash rewards were earlier offered by the FBI (\$10,000), the NMI Crime Stoppers Program (\$1,000), IT&E (\$1,000), Sorensen Media Group (\$1,000), and Rabby Syed's Saipan City Taxi Association (\$500).

Simon said they are hoping that the enhanced reward will generate additional leads that will assist in bringing the girls home safely.

"We're definitely not giving up hope. We're re-energized," said Simon, adding that their working relationship with the Department of Public Safety is "still very solid."

DELA CRUZ

From Page 1

In a brief phone interview, Dela Cruz said the reason behind his resignation is "personal."

"I am waiting for the governor. He's been very busy," he told *Saipan Tribune*. He said he has been telling the governor that he plans to resign as early as last year.

The governor was in a meeting when Dela Cruz personally submitted his resignation letter between 2pm and 3pm yesterday.

Fitial appointed Dela Cruz, the only government veterinarian in the CNMI, as DLNR secretary in 2006. The Senate confirmed his appointment in March that year. When Fitial was elected to a second term, Dela Cruz went on as DLNR secretary.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said he could only confirm Dela Cruz's submission of a resignation letter yesterday afternoon.

Other sources privy to the issue said the DLNR secretary's resignation was triggered by misunderstandings between Dela Cruz and the governor over a trip to Hawaii for a fisheries conference.

The sources said the governor did not want Dela Cruz to attend the conference. The sources also said Dela Cruz told the governor that if he does not want him to travel, then he must restrict travel across-the-board, "including you, governor."

While one of Fitial's Cabinet secretaries resigned, two were sworn in at about the same time.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos sworn into office Ramon Mafnas as Department of Public Safety commissioner and Larrisa Larson as Department of Finance secretary, a day after the Senate confirmed their appointments.

ASIAN

From Page 1

the same building that houses Tony Roma's and Capriciosa in Garapan, while Pure Colors is located across DFS Galleria also in Garapan.

Treasure Inc. established Asian Accents in November 2001 by opening up the La Fiesta branch, according to *Saipan Tribune* files.

In 2004, Treasure Inc. general

manager Koji Kimura opened up the Garapan branch to make Asian Accents more accessible to tourists and local residents.

Most of Asian Accents' products are from Bali, Indonesia. The store carries the Jengara Ceramic ceramic dishes, which are very popular in Bali. Other items that the store has been offering are wooden beds, animal figurines, vases, furniture and wall decors, artworks, and handbags.

Court approves consent decree that settles lawsuit vs MAC for \$826K penalties

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday approved a consent decree that resolved the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's lawsuit against the former owner of Shell Marianas for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at its bulk gasoline terminal in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Under the consent decree,

Marianas Acquisition Corp. agrees to pay \$826,000 in civil penalties for past violations.

MAC also agrees to install emissions control equipment worth approximately \$2.3 million.

The consent decree commits MAC to additional forms of injunctive relief to ensure future compliance, and subjects it to stipulated penalties for non-compliance.

Andrew W. Ingersoll, trial attorney of the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to approve the consent decree entered by EPA and MAC.

"The Consent Decree fully resolves the case pending before this Court, as it represents a final judgment among the Parties as to the claims in the case," Ingersoll said.

soll said.

He said the consent decree has received no opposition or adverse public comment and that it is consistent with the goals of the Clean Air Act.

Ingersoll said the settlement reduces emissions of volatile organic compounds, including the known human carcinogen benzene from MAC's bulk gasoline storage and distribution facility

in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Senior District Judge Alex R. Munson granted yesterday the consent decree.

Munson said he agrees that the consent decree is reasonable, fair, and consistent with the purposes of the Clean Air Act.

In March 2011, EPA announced the settlement of the case. EPA said according to the complaint filed simultaneously with the

settlement, for more than two decades, MAC, previously doing business as Shell Marianas, failed to install vapor pollution controls and comply with a pollution limit at its bulk gasoline terminal leading area in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Failure to limit its emissions led to the illegal discharge of about 5 tons of volatile organic compounds into the air each year, EPA said.

Charges filed vs 6 aliens recruited in China and promised work

The U.S. government filed in federal court yesterday improper entry charges against six persons who were allegedly recruited in China and promised work in the CNMI while paroled in as tourists.

Charged in the information are four males—Cuilan Ma, Chungping Li, Lifei Bian, and Shoujun Yin—and two males—Zhongjun Yu and Zhipeng Ren.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler stated in the information that on May 30, 2011, the six Chinese nationals entered the CNMI by telling an immigration officer at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport that they were coming to the Commonwealth as tourists and not to work, when in fact, they intended to work.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his affidavit that on May 27, 2011, a co-operating source (CS) informed him and a Homeland Security Investigations special agent that the CS had been communicating with a Chinese national named Ms. Honglian Cheng on "QQ," a free instant messaging service based in China, in order to bring in several Chinese nationals to work in the CNMI.

Harahap said according to the translations of the QQ conversations, Cheng planned to bring several Chinese nationals to the CNMI as tourists to work and that she wanted the CS' help once they arrived on Saipan.

Cheng agreed to pay the CS \$1,000 for booking a hotel room on Saipan and renting a vehicle to transport her and the Chinese nationals from the airport to the hotel.

The original plan was to bring in eight Chinese nationals, but only six arrived. Cheng allegedly made plans with the CS for the females to work in a bar and for the males to work on a farm.

Harahap said the six paid about 30,000 RMB or \$4,600 each to be brought to the CNMI in order to work.

Harahap said during their surveillance, it showed that Cheng and Ms. Li Hua arrived together with the six defendants at Saipan airport in the early morning of May 30, 2011.

Hua and the six persons stated that they planned to stay on Saipan for seven days as tourists. Cheng identified herself

as the tour group leader for the other seven.

The immigration officers allowed the eight to be paroled in the CNMI until June 15, 2011.

The agent learned that Hua was responsible for recruiting the six persons in China, while Cheng was responsible for bringing the six to Saipan.

ICE agents recently arrested Hua for encouraging the six aliens to come to the CNMI to unlawfully work while paroled in as tourists, while Cheng was also apprehended on the same charges involving two other Chinese nationals—Guoquan Liu and Qiang Zhou. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Speaker wants enforcement of laws renaming Koblerville Fire Station and Garapan Street

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) asked the Department of Public Works to install a permanent sign at the Koblerville Fire Station bearing its proper name—the Jose Terlaje Ada Building—to comply with Saipan Local Law 16-13.

The speaker also asked the Saipan Mayor's Office to replace a Garapan Street sign with its proper name, Jesus T. Attao Road, as Saipan Local Law 15-17 requires.

The local law renaming the fire station, signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Feb. 12, 2010, requires DPW to install a permanent sign bearing the new name "no later than 60 days" after the law becomes effective.

"We as leaders of the Commonwealth are cognizant of the fact that our financial woes have limited us in our appropriating powers but this Saipan local law has been in the books since the 16th Commonwealth Legislature and it is important that we abide by our laws that (have) been set forth," Cabrera told Sablan.

Jose Terlaje Ada, for whom the fire station was named after,

is a former police officer, chief of the Fire Division and chief of Corrections until his retirement in 1986. He went back to the Department of Public Safety in 1995 and served as Fire Division director for two years.

Saipan Local Law 15-17, meanwhile, which was signed on Feb. 15, 2007, renames Garapan Street as the Jesus T. Attao Road, named after the for-

mer House of Representatives member who served eight consecutive terms. Attao worked in government for 35 years. The road named after him begins from Beach Road to Sugar King Road in Garapan.

Cabrera told Saipan Mayor Donald Flores that this local law, which has been in the books since the 15th Legislature, should be complied with.

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SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES
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During its June 6, 2011 business meeting, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission established new Electric Monthly Customer Charges and Electric Non-Fuel Rates (Base Rates) for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's residential, commercial and government customers. These charges and rates became effective June 7, 2011, and shall continue until changed by order of the Commission.

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATE (BASE RATE)	LEAC RATE	TOTAL RATE PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL 1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500) 2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000) 3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000) 4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)	\$ 6.62	\$0.0190 0.0780 0.1020 0.1500	\$0.34426 0.34426 0.34426 0.34426	\$0.36326 0.42226 0.44626 0.49426
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	\$ 9.06	\$0.1020	\$0.34426	\$0.44626
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	\$ 9.06	\$0.1070	\$0.34426	\$0.45126
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	\$ 56.00	\$0.2220	\$0.34426	\$0.56626

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

JANUARY 2008	\$ 0.258	AUGUST 2008	\$ 0.413
FEBRUARY 2008	\$ 0.253	SEPTEMBER 2008	\$ 0.362
MARCH 2008 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176	OCTOBER 2008	\$ 0.337
MARCH 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.288	NOVEMBER 2008	\$ 0.270
APRIL 2008 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176	DECEMBER 2008	\$ 0.207
APRIL 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.327	JANUARY 2009 - MARCH 2009	\$ 0.22989
MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/1 - 2/08)	\$ 0.176	APRIL 1 - 2, 2009	\$ 0.22989
MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08)	\$ 0.357	APRIL 3, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2009	\$ 0.20147
MAY 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.357	OCTOBER 2009 - MAY 2010	\$ 0.20147
JUNE 2008	\$ 0.387	JUNE 2010 - JANUARY 12, 2011	\$ 0.24446
JULY 2008	\$ 0.413	JANUARY 13, 2011 - APRIL 15, 2011	\$ 0.28125

Fan, Bandalas are top graduates of Hopwood

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Fan and Joann Bandalas were named most outstanding students of Hopwood Junior High School and were awarded the highest academic honors during a promotional ceremony on campus yesterday.

Fan was bestowed this year's Board of Education award for her academic excellence, while Bandalas was named Commissioner of Education awardee.

Fan, 15, is the daughter of Chen Zhu Yao and Yao Xing Fan. She was also named recipient of other special awards including president's award for excellence, A honor roll, best in math, best in social studies, best in language arts, best in bilingual, and best in computer class.

Fan will enroll at Marianas High School for her secondary education. She dreams of becoming a computer specialist and vowed to strive harder to reach her goals.

"I am so happy...I feel that all my hard work and sacrifices were not wasted," she told *Saipan Tribune* after the momentous occasion, adding that she is dedicating her achievements to her parents.

In her message to fellow students, Fan encouraged her peers to continue to strive for excellence and never give up on their dreams.

Named this year's Commissioner of Education awardee was Joann Bandalas, the daughter of John and Juanita Bandalas. The 14-year-old top student will go to Saipan Southern High School next school year.

Bandalas was also named recipient of other special recognitions given prior to the graduation.

Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas, along with education officials, promoted 484 eighth graders to high school. He also bestowed this year's principal's leadership award to Angeline Orsini.

Along with Fan and Bandalas, completing the Top 10 list were

Angelyn Labadan, Daril Hermogenes, Jennella Nelmda, Malaina Kileleman, Ann Jeline Manabat, Jeffrey Centino, Mary Fem Urena, and Janet Estrellado.

The school also bestowed the athletes of the year awards to Corina Suda and John Babauta.

Recipients of the presidential excellence and academic awards were also recognized during yesterday's ceremonies.

Because of the outstanding support demonstrated by the students' parents this year, the school also bestowed the PTSA distinguished service award to officers and members of the group.

Yesterday's ceremonies were keynoted by Bobby James Cruz and Rei Joyce Averion, alumni of the school and now serving as teachers of the Public School System.

Besides the top awardees, special messages and congratulatory remarks were shared to students by Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

Hundreds of families and supporters of graduates attended the promotional rites which theme was "Do not go where the path may lead...go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."



Mariana Fan
BOE Awardee



Joann Bandalas
COE Awardee

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective June 23, 2011, Kagman Road traffic will be detoured as depicted below to allow for the safe construction of an underground Flood Control Channel and a large Box Culvert as part of the Kagman Watershed Project. This paved detour is expected to remain in place throughout the construction at a reduced speed of 20 MPH.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

RNV CONSTRUCTION



The map illustrates the detour of Kagman Road for RNV construction. The main road is shown with a '20 MPH' speed limit sign. A 'KAGMAN ROAD DETOUR' is indicated by a curved arrow. The detour route goes around the 'CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL' and a 'BOX CULVERT'. Landmarks include 'JOETEN KAGMAN STORE', 'TO CAPITOL HILL', 'EXISTING KAGMAN ROAD', 'FORMER BEAUTY SALON AND POKER BLDG', 'TYPE III BARRICADE', 'FORMER GROCERY STORE', 'TRAFFIC CONCRETE BARRIER', 'EXISTING KAGMAN ROAD', 'STA. SOLEDAD CHURCH', 'TO KAGMAN I & II', 'CHACHA ROAD', 'TO KAGMAN III', 'TO JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY', and 'CHACHA ROAD'. A 'STOP' sign is shown at the intersection with Chacha Road.

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2011



Our private and public elementary, junior and high schools have provided the sense of belonging for our children. They brought our community and islands together, allowing for everyone such as our schools administrators, teachers and staff, and parents to have a part in every child's education.

As School Year 2010-2011 come to a close, it also opens a new chapter in the lives of our promotees and graduating students in the Commonwealth. We have triumphed yet again in our continued quest to move forward and deliver the same purpose for what we, as steward of public and non-private education, are entrusted upon.

This school year have taught us that no matter what we are faced with, what rules and policies are in place, the success of a child is dependent in our ability to teach our children. The school, the family and the community have all been integral to the education of our children.

To the Graduating Class of 2011, we salute all of you for your sacrifice, commitment and conviction to persevere. As you strive to move forward, it is our hope and optimism that you share the wisdom of learning, as it is the hallmark of success.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES!

*CNMI State Board of Education
and CNMI Public School System
Office of the Commissioner of Education*



STUDENTS FIRST

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PSS students win prizes in Meal of Champions raffle



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Koblerville Elementary School fifth grader Virginia Imperial, center, receives the 32GB iPad with Wi-Fi which she won from Herman's Modern Bakery Meal of Champions raffle draw held last Friday. With her is Herman's Modern Bakery catering manager Nita Sablan and Imperial's teacher Mercedes Deleon Guerrero.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighty exciting prizes—including a brand new netbooks and an iPad—were given away to students of Koblerville Elementary School and Saipan Southern High School during the 5th Meal of Champions Raffle Draw held Friday at the Saipan Southern High School.

Meal of Champions is a promotion from Herman's Modern Bakery, a vendor under the Public School System's Breakfast and Meal Program to encourage more students to eat their free healthy meals at school.

The promo ran from Jan. 15 to June 15 or before the students go on summer break.

"We came up with the program in the beginning of the first quarter of the school year because our statistics for stu-

dent participation in our lunch program was very low," catering manager Nita Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

As a result, Sablan said they came up with the Meal of Champions for breakfast and lunch so that students will be motivated to eat their provided meals and win at the same time.

"We saw about 50 percent increase in the number of students who ate their breakfast and 75 percent increase for those who ate lunch," she disclosed.

The grand prize of a brand new 32B iPad with free Wi-Fi went to Virginia Imperial for her ticket No. 200122.

Sablan and other Herman's Bakery employees went to Koblerville Elementary School where Imperial is current at fifth grade to deliver her prize.

"I'm very surprised and happy to win. This is my first time



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Southern High School junior Clayton Aguon, second from right, is flanked by Juan Pan Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery, Dale Roberts of Public School System Food Nutrition Services, and James Nelson of Docomo Pacific after winning a Dell Inspiron netbook in the Meal of Champions held on June 10 at SSHS campus.

to win a raffle," Imperial said in an interview.

According to Imperial, she has always wanted an iPad so she will play with it right away.

Mercedes Deleon Guerrero, Imperial's teacher, said her student who is part of the school's track and field team deserves to win the prize.

"She's the fastest runner among the girls. She's our top peace builder and she's a good citizen. I think she deserves it," she said.

Deleon Guerrero added that she always encouraged her students to eat healthy and right, and that the promotion was just an added bonus for the students.

Clayton Aguon and Tim Sula of Saipan Southern High School each won Dell Inspiron netbook for the second prize.

Seventeen-year old Aguon,

who is an 11th grader, said he and his girlfriend Sarah submitted more than 300 tickets for the raffle.

"I'm surprised to win. I just collected the tickets for the promo," he said.

Aguon, who already owns a PSS-issued netbook, said he will definitely work and explore his new laptop.

Other prizes given away were a Samsung cellphone, iPod Nano and Shuffle, round cakes, sim cards, and phone cards.

Sablan added that they were happy about the great turnout for the event.

"We're trying to see and work if we can give them gift certificates for school supplies to help them in their school needs. We'll add some movie passes as well and we hope to have another great turnout," she said.

GUNS & HOSES EVENT

DPS Fire wins Hard Rock burger eating contest anew

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The fire division of the Department of Public Safety defended its title during the burger eating contest for the Guns & Hoses event sponsored by Hard Rock Café in celebration of its 40th Founders Day.

Firefighters Climaco "Little Rock" Laniyo and John "Crue" Camacho defeated Police Officer 2 Carl Hocog and Police Officer 3 Joey Cruz in gobbling down the most number of burgers.

Laniyo and Camacho won Hard Rock gift certificates and a small trophy.

Camacho, in an interview, said this is his first time to participate in the contest since he was off-island when the same contest was held last year. Last year's winners, Stuart Peter and Gary Cruz, are the ones who are off-island this time.

"I'm super excited because we defended the title for those guys," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho thanked Hard Rock Café for paying tribute to all DPS staff. "It's such a great honor," he added.

Challengers Hocog and Cruz, meanwhile, received certificates of participation.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Firefighters Climaco "Little Rock" Laniyo and John "Crue" Camacho pose with Hard Rock Cafe staff after winning the burger eating contest for the Guns & Hoses event in celebration of Hard Rock's 40th Founders Day yesterday.

"The two firefighters won because we let them," Hocog quipped.

He added, "We thank Hard Rock for thinking of us and giving appreciation to our services."

Mayor Donald Flores, who served as guest speaker for yesterday's event, expressed amazement that a private business honored the uniformed men and women in the community who serve and protect the public.

"The nature of their jobs

puts their lives at risk everyday while trying to protect and save others," said the mayor as he thanked all of them and their families.

Hard Rock staff

Hard Rock personnel also had their own burger eating contest for their female and male employees.

Kitchen staff Rolly Paraiso bested Dennis Fabian and Mikka Valencia after devouring three burgers.

"I enjoyed it and became very

full," said Paraiso who has been with Hard Rock for five years.

Frenilyn Bautista beat Melinda Solis and April Dela Cruz after almost finishing one burger.

"I knew I would win because I'm a voracious eater," she said.

During the event, the Hard Rock team also uttered a prayer for the two missing sisters, Faloma and Meleina Luhk.

"We invited everyone but the turnout wasn't that many because most of the DPS staff are involved in the search efforts for the Luhk sisters," said operations manager Reynaldo Perez.

Perez said they have been in communication with DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas who expressed his regret that not a lot of their men and women can take part in the event.

According to Perez, they have also provided in-kind donation that will help the DPS staff in their search operation.

"We just wanted to give tribute to them. That was our objective in commemorating our Founders' Day," he added.

All the DPS and Hard Rock staff also participated in the ceremonial slicing of a guitar-shaped cake.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 15, 1999

Hosting illegal migrants costs CNMI \$500,000

The CNMI government spent an estimated half-a-million dollars from April to May for providing security and temporary shelter to hundreds of undocumented Chinese nationals held on Tinian. According to figures prepared by the Department of Finance, as of end-May government expenditures for this operation reached \$501,000, bulk of which was spent for personnel costs. Estimates indicate that salaries and overtime payment for employees of the Customs Division, Departments of Public Safety and Labor and Immigration, Commonwealth Health Center and the Emergency Management Office totaled \$392,000. The number of government employees deployed to the island municipality varied, but at one time peaked at 70.

Teno appeals to locals to take nursing profession

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday underscored the need to attract more local people to join the nursing profession with the increasing health care needs of the community. Tenorio asked delegates to the nursing conference to provide suggestions on how the Northern Marianas can achieve such goal amid the economic difficulties brought about by Asia's economic crisis. When he addressed the association 10 years ago, it was already clear that there would be a worldwide shortage of nurses before the year 2000. Since then, working conditions and salaries of nurses have improved and many young people have entered the profession.

June 15, 2000

CDA faces slowdown in collection

The Commonwealth Development Authority is currently faced with a dramatic slowdown in average monthly collection of loan payments mainly because of the problems raised by the high vacancy rate in apartment and commercial spaces, according to Executive Director Marylou S. Ada. In an interview yesterday, Ms. Ada pointed out majority of CDA clients that ventured into the construction of residential and commercial structures have not been able to meet their regular monthly loan payments. However, she promptly added that the loans released to real estate or property developers still do not fall under the non-performing category since the clients continue to issue monthly payments but at an amount lower than what was stipulated in the credit agreement.

Transfer of tobacco, alcohol control to DPS anti-business

The CNMI Department of Commerce has expressed opposition to plans by the Legislature to transfer the regulation of alcohol and tobacco licensing to the public safety department, amid possible negative impression it may create on the island's business atmosphere. Acting Commerce Secretary David S. Palacios said the current regulatory and licensing system in place is working well within the commerce department, which also administers Civil Enforcement Mechanism in accordance to the Licensing Suspension and Revocation Functions of the Administrative Procedure Act. Mr. Palacios made the statement on the heels of legislative proposals to establish a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms under the Department of Public Safety, which virtually abolishes the same body at the commerce department.

June 15, 2001

Federal court: CNMI a US territory

The US District Court yesterday denied a motion that sought to dismiss charges against suspected illegal gambling operator Qian Wu on grounds that the CNMI is not a territory of the United States. District Judge Alex R. Munson referred to the Covenant as basis for the ruling that junked the argument of the defense panel. In a decision, Munson upheld Asst. US Attorney David Wood's contention that asserted the US' jurisdiction to enforce a federal illegal gambling statute which Wu had allegedly violated. The defense previously filed a motion to dismiss the charges on ground that defendant Wu's alleged crime was conducted outside the gambling statute's definition of the term "State."

Questions raised on Marpi landfill plans

Rep. Stanley Torres yesterday questioned plans of the Department of Public Works to award the contract for the construction of the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, which is intended to replace the Puerto Rico dumpsite. At the same time, the congressman assailed DPW Solid Waste Division Manager John Harder for his alleged failure to immediately carry out the Puerto Rico dump closure. This developed as the groundbreaking for the Lower Base Refuse Transfer station kicks off today. "While I applaud the start of all construction projections, as far I can determine there is yet to even be a contract award for the Marpi Solid Waste Landfill. Isn't that a little like putting the cart before the donkey," raised Torres in a press statement.

Filipinos celebrate Independence Day despite tough times

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos on Saipan commemorated the 113th Philippine Independence Day on Sunday amid a frugal celebration marked by prolonged uncertainties and worsening economic conditions.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig led other Filipinos and guests in the flag raising ceremony at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza followed by a brief program and a delectable buffet of breakfast for everyone.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and his wife Andrea Sablan, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin and his wife Lina Villagomez, United Workers Movement presi-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig are flanked by other distinguished guests at the Philippine Independence Day program organized by the Consulate at the Marianas Business Plaza ground floor on Sunday.

dent Rabby Syed, and Office of Insular Affairs field representative Jeff Schorr joined members

of various Filipino organizations in the observance of the time when the Philippines declared its

our 113 year history," Macaraig said as he reminded Filipinos that the Consulate will continue to serve and assist "through these inconvenient times."

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte, who called on all Filipinos to be proud of their contributions to the island community, said the challenges that Filipinos have to deal with will be overcome if they work together with instill values of hard work, respect, generosity, and humility.

Messages by President Benigno S. Aquino III, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario, Labor and Employment secretary Rosalinda Baldoz, Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose Cuisia, Jr., and Overseas Welfare Administrator Carmelita Dimzon were also read during the program.

Featured group

This year's Philippine Independence Day program featured the Computer Class which made a video presentation for the guests.

Macaraig said a total of 37 graduates of the class have obtained international certifications for building and fixing computers.

"In return, these Filipinos have assisted communities on Saipan

for their computer repair and other needs," he added.

The breakfast, meanwhile, was prepared by the group Alternati-bong Kagalingan na Angkop sa Pamayanang Pinoy or AKAP Pinoy which is also comprised of former students of culinary arts, baking and fruit carving classes.

Messages

Inos, in an interview, said he has regularly participated in the celebration of this important event since he considers Filipinos as members of the community.

"I congratulate them again for another year of independence. This is the 113th year; it's a long time. I wish that those who are here will be able to work together by way of bringing more economic growth so that we can all benefit from it," he said.

For his part, Delegate Sablan also congratulated the Philippines and its people for the anniversary of their republic.

"America and the Philippines have had a long and very solid relationship and we'll continue to support the relationship as we stand with one another on good times through difficult times," he said.

Profiles of various Filipino heroes were also framed and put on display at the program venue.



GOOD LUCK

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Eddie Manalili, Brian Deleon Guerrero, and Dominic Magofna pose for a photo before they leave Saipan last Sunday for San Diego to attend military training for 13 weeks.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Soledad Corpuz. Whatever you ask, may you receive it. Whatever you seek, may you find it. Whatever you wish, may it be fulfilled on your birthday.. God bless! Greetings from your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP11-DPW/ED-099

SUBMISSION DATE: DATE: JULY 11, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR ARRA ENERGY PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSTRUCTION BLOCK GRANT"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JUNE 08, 2011** AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED AT THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO eebcg_cm@recovery.gov.mp

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **JUNE 24, 2011** AT **9:00 A.M.**, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO eebcg_cm@recovery.gov.mp OR FAXED TO (670) 234-3016 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JUNE 29, 2011**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

/S/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

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MELL SENTOSA	056E	6/4 Sat	6/2 Thu	6/2 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/28 Sat	6/10 Fri	6/6 Mon	6/5 Sun	5/29 Sun	5/29 Sun	6/6 Mon	6/10 Fri	6/12 Sun	6/14 Tue
MELL SARACA	048E	6/11 Sat	6/9 Thu	6/9 Thu	6/7 Tue	6/4 Sat	6/17 Fri	6/13 Mon	6/12 Sun	6/5 Sun	6/5 Sun	6/13 Mon	6/17 Fri	6/19 Sun	6/21 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	6/18 Sat	6/16 Thu	6/16 Thu	6/14 Tue	6/11 Sat	6/24 Fri	6/20 Mon	6/19 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/20 Mon	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	6/28 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	057E	6/25 Sat	6/23 Thu	6/23 Thu	6/21 Tue	6/18 Sat	7/1 Fri	6/27 Mon	6/26 Sun	6/19 Sun	6/19 Sun	6/27 Mon	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	7/5 Tue
MELL SARACA	049E	7/2 Sat	6/30 Thu	6/30 Thu	6/28 Tue	6/25 Sat	7/8 Fri	7/4 Mon	7/3 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	7/4 Mon	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/9 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/7 Thu	7/5 Tue	7/2 Sat	7/15 Fri	7/11 Mon	7/10 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/11 Mon	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	7/19 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	056E	6/18 Sat	6/19 Sun	6/19 Sun	SKIP	6/22 Wed	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	SKIP	7/1 Fri	7/2 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/26 Tue	7/10 Sun
MELL SARACA	048E	6/25 Sat	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/27 Mon	6/29 Wed	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/8 Fri	7/9 Sat	7/14 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/17 Sun
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	7/2 Sat	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/6 Wed	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	SKIP	7/15 Fri	7/16 Sat	7/21 Thu	8/9 Tue	7/24 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	057E	7/9 Sat	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue	7/13 Wed	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/22 Fri	7/23 Sat	7/28 Thu	8/16 Tue	7/31 Sun
MELL SARACA	049E	7/16 Sat	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/20 Wed	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	SKIP	7/29 Fri	7/30 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/23 Tue	8/7 Sun
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/23 Sat	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/27 Wed	7/27 Wed	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/5 Fri	8/6 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/30 Tue	8/14 Sun

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Reneging on a deal

If the road map to ratification of the Colombia, Panama and South Korea free trade pacts were an obstacle course, it would resemble a minefield where new devices are planted as soon as old ones are cleared. The latest blow-up involves conditions and priorities preceding a vote, which only a few weeks ago seemed a sure thing.

The dispute has absolutely nothing to do with the agreements themselves. The devil is in the politics, not in the details.

The Obama administration spent two years holding the initiative back from Capitol Hill while it sought to win support from labor's Democratic allies by toughening the terms of trade with the other countries. To soften the labor movement's customary opposition to free-trade deals, the White House coupled them with an extension of unemployment insurance and retraining assistance for workers supplanted by foreign competition.

It seemed like a done deal until Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the minority leader, threatened to block President Obama's nominee for secretary of the Commerce Department unless he submits the trade deals without the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, saying it was too expensive.

It was not the first time the GOP leader threatened to kill the hostage unless he got his way. Last December, he insisted that the Senate would not ratify the Korea pact — which had no significant opposition within his own party — until all three pacts were submitted for approval as a package. Ultimately, Mr. Obama did so.

What is particularly frustrating about the latest hang-up is that practically everyone agrees the trade pacts are a no-brainer. They would support tens of thousands of jobs in this country at a time when unemployment remains stubbornly high.

The deal with Colombia alone is expected to boost U.S. exports by \$1 billion, improving the U.S. trade balance, and increase business and commerce at the Port of Miami by a significant measure. It also has a national security dimension, helping to cement a U.S. commercial presence in a part of South America where the United States is losing influence. It makes no sense to throw a monkey wrench into the deal at this point.

Extending the Trade Adjustment Act is a fair swap. As written, the program would be renewed for 10 years for a total of \$7.2 billion. That's a lot of money, but this kind of help has always been a necessary part of the bargain with U.S. workers over globalization. If their jobs are going overseas to improve the reach of the U.S. economy, they should receive help adapting to the modernized domestic workforce.

Obama and Democrats have made compromises to get this far. Now it's Sen. McConnell's turn.

Last week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, after meeting with Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin, offered her counterpart reassurances that the free trade pact would win approval. "I am absolutely sure we're going to get it passed," she declared.

We wish we could share her optimism. Absent a breakthrough in this impasse, the legislation could remain in limbo forever. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the business community must help put a stop to this nonsense by telling their Republican allies to clear the way for passage. Republicans say they favor free trade. It's time to prove it.

(c) 2011, The Miami Herald.

MAHA VERUO VERUO
KOERDA

"WE HAVE VERY LITTLE CONTROL OVER
EXTERNAL FORCES SUCH AS TORNADOES,
EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS... WHAT REALLY
MATTERS IS THE INTERNAL FORCE. HOW
DO I RESPOND TO THOSE DISASTERS?"
—LEO BUSCAGLIA

Asserting our ownership

The call to assert ownership of the sea and seabed resources around the NMI makes sense although it may be a day late and a dollar short, so to speak. But it could also be argued that anything of traditional ownership that was never negotiated between two sovereign entities 33 years ago is still subject to negotiations.

The federal government is likely to point out that Section One of the agreement renders moot any further discussion pertaining to the 200-mile EEZ. I respectfully disagree. To subject the NMI into the usual federal hardball game isn't in any form or fashion assisting the overall commitment for greater self-government of the inhabitants of these islands.

The NMI must steadfastly advocate the traditional use of the sea since five centuries ago by our ancestors to fish for big catch to support the needs of the NMI community. This angle has more teeth than the usual blather of federal "precedence" versus other coastal states and territories. That the NMI is a sea of islands states the obvious traditional connectivity between the sea and culture.

The federal government supports landownership for Native Americans if it is for the greater good of all five hundred plus tribes. The same argument could be used to accommodate the NMI on this matter given that though we may not be a tribe, but there's the historical fact that our ancestors are seafaring people who go out as far as 500 miles to fish for larger catch.

In fact, the lack of similarities or precedent need not be used as legal excuses in this case. But there is the traditional connectivity between the sea and our ancestors. The issue relates to migratory and mineral resources within 200-mile off the coast of the NMI. They can be used collectively for the economic wellbeing of the people of these islands.

A successful harvest of our sea and seabed resources would mean far less handouts from Uncle Sam. It leads to the gradual ending eating off handouts from taxpayers across the country. It means we can move decisively to harvest resources to meet most of our financial needs down the stretch. This is more the reason why this must be taken up seriously. In it rests the future economic wellbeing of the people of these isles.

Guam wrestles with status

Guam's Gov. Eddy Calvo campaigned successfully to resolving Guam's political future even boldly, too. And it is one longstanding

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



issue warranting resolution with finality.

Said he, "I highly doubt the 1,744 Marines and soldiers who gave their lives in the Battle of Guam died so that the people they liberated could be colonized for eternity," he said.

Such inalienable rights can't be denied the Chamorus while they study how to dispose of the proposed military build-up in and outside the fence.

It's not an enviable position to be in given that not everybody is pro-military. Yet it remains a hugely potential economic boon for a territory that also relies on the sputtering tourism industry for its survival.

The resolution of her status is a must in order for our brothers and sisters to ably plan the future of Guahan once this matter is resolved with certainty. Whether it wishes to embrace the status quo (unincorporated territory) statehood or semi-independence is really up to the people. For now, it would seem that most would seek for close ties with Uncle Sam no matter what comes down as its final answer.

■ ■ ■ ■

The NMI has gone into the fandango mood longer than it should. Perhaps it was our way of skirting fiduciary responsibilities to establishing strong democratic institutions. Or is in fact our silent expression of the Big Brother attitude that Uncle Sam would be here to clean after our mess and tuck us into bed once more? Well, last I heard Uncle Sam was too busy trying to rectify his financial house suffering heavily from the corrosive effects of unbridled spending. The arrogance of its leadership hasn't moved Washington into reviewing fiscally palatable solutions.

But Uncle Sam isn't the only one suffering from debt crisis though his share is way too large on a comparative basis. The NMI is also singing the same blues every single day. We hum and whis-

See **ASSERTING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Letter to the Editor**Somebody has to say something**

I arrived on Saipan in July 1998, experiencing one of the most successful private sector economic expansions in Pacific Island history. Today, the CNMI is in the throes of a serious economic depression, which shows no sign of abating or recovering even in the distant future.

What happened?

The Covenant says this: "United States will assist the Government of the Northern Marianas to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people as part of the American economic community and to develop the economic resources needed to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government."

This is an excerpt from a report done by Anthony Solomon, then professor of Business Administration at Harvard University during the Kennedy era. The report was called *The Report by the United States Survey Mission to the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands*, but has come to be known as the Solomon Report, and referred to America's ruthless blueprint for the assimilation of Micronesia.

"[The] Solomon Report...clearly laid out a strategy. ...The U.S. would pump large amounts of money into Micronesia, build a community-service infrastructure, establish a host of development programs and a dependency upon cash, hold a plebiscite at the point at which the Micronesians' hopes had been raised, and then pull back support as the various development programs failed to succeed."

Sounds familiar?

A report funded by the Department of the Interior called *Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* had this to say: "The Covenant worked well in the

first several decades for the CNMI. The federal application of the minimum wage and immigration provisions of the Covenant is now destroying the CNMI economy in contravention to the Covenant itself. Obviously, something has gone seriously wrong.

"Despite these serious admonitions, Congress acted to apply the federal minimum wage and immigration laws to the CNMI at the onset of its economic depression. Unfortunately, little thought appears to have been given to the effects of this legislation on the CNMI's economy. Congress requested a GAO study of the impact of the immigration legislation on the CNMI economy but passed that legislation before all study findings and recommendations were available. In the case of the minimum wage legislation, a study was performed by the U.S. Department of Labor after the Act was passed. Both included scenarios under which economic disaster could occur in the CNMI.

"All of this was done with the full federal knowledge of the likely adverse economic effects on the CNMI. It appears now that the only real hope is to persuade the federal government, the Congress or the courts that the U.S. must begin taking its territories and its responsibilities to them more seriously. *It must remedy what it has done to the CNMI.*"

I couldn't agree more!

In order to maintain the status quo the U.S. has created this fictional state where we are neither American citizens nor a sovereign state.

"This effort to expose these wrongs is undertaken even though this colonial setting is so complex and so subtle that many who are affected by it actually accept it, the systematic denial of the full

complement of rights of a group of citizens just because of racial constructions or colonial fiction needs to be exposed and addressed in order to challenge the rhetoric that is supposed to be the foundation of democracy."

Everyone is waiting to see what status the U.S. is going to bestow on the thousands of out-of-work, displaced immigrants who have been hanging around our islands in limbo for the past year. What we should be asking ourselves is what's up with this non-status they've given us. Without representation or a vote we're like a dog on a chain.

I know there's going to be different opinions on this, but one good reason for leaving those immigrants just hanging around when something this important to our stagnating economy is at stake, instead of responsibly dealing with this problem a year ago, is because if the economy gets bad enough everyone will be pointing fingers at the immigrants instead of the real cause for our demise.

There's no nice way to say this: "The United States of America has [expletive] us." We have no future because there is no way we can *ever* achieve economic recovery under the conditions they've subjected us to. And what guarantee do we have that the budget cuts we've seen this year aren't going to increase in the near future?

We have to reopen the Covenant, rethink all of our involvement with the U.S., and start controlling our own future, because nobody else cares.

Garry Evilsizer
Koblerville, Saipan

What is ridiculous is having the government make your decisions

What language should I write my letter in? Apparently the English language is not working well for comprehension. Let's get something straight Mr. Ambrose Bennett. First of all, I am not a politician so before you try to "label" someone, make sure you have your facts in place to justify your "hunch." It is ridiculous to assume inaccurate information.

Not in any word did my letter support SHEFA or CNMI's inconsistency to release checks and their lack of justification on their method for deciding who receives their awards first and who waits. Both SHEFA and CNMI Scholarship are in need of re-structuring their approach and organization. I am quite aware that some students have received their awards while others are left waiting—this is UN-FAIR! But where in my letter did it state that I supported their manner of disbursement? My view is not in defense of SHEFA or CNMI. Both agencies have their share of liable faults; but to blame them for us as students not being able to meet tuition deadlines because of delayed disbursement are unfair to them. Technically, it's not their problem.

If you read the first sentence of my letter you would see that I stated I am a current student; therefore I am experiencing the same situations with the delay of checks. And to humor your comment on being financially well off; I'm sorry to burst your bubble, but I am just another student, mother, and wife who work full-time to pay for living and educational expenses. To top it off, my husband is a college student as well. So there's no arrogance in my story, just plain

and simple understanding, independence, and many huge sacrifices. And to be honest, if SHEFA does not release spring awards by August, I might be forced to take a semester or two off to save money. If this happens, it is still my problem. Yes, this probably wouldn't be the case if awards were issued within at least the semester; but tell me why should I blame them for this? It is what it is!

SHEFA and the CNMI have a contractual agreement with students and parents when an award has been approved. However, nowhere in the contract (MOA) is it stated that they must provide the scholarship funds within a certain period or time. So technically, these scholarships agencies are not violating their contracts; until they completely fail to disburse.

What is ridiculous is stating the decision to pursue a college education is made by the government and student. I hope you do not impart this type of decision-making on your children; as the decision to pursue a higher education should be based on an individual's drive to expand knowledge and experience to better succeed in life; and not on what the government offers or in your words "promise." The government for decades has failed its citizens; I would not see why today you would base a decision of this importance on the government—ridiculous!

I hope you know the definition of "risk" since you perceive a college education as a non-risk journey besides the "only risk for these students is their dependency upon the CNMI government." Going

to college has multiple risks attached—possibility of getting a low-paying job; high student loan debt; low demand in the work field; etc; which is more of a reason for this type of decision to be based on more than just what the government "promise."

What you need to protest on is a contractual agreement where funds should be released when approved by x number of weeks/months of x days of whatever you think it should be, since you seem to dwell over this exact issue.

So I thank you for your opinions and views as I take criticism constructively!

Tracey Manglona
Dandan, Saipan resident
Currently in Washington State

Random thoughts

Just a few random thoughts as I read the *Saipan Tribune* for the past few months. First, I would like to ask that Article 12 not be repealed.

I'm not Chamorro and I don't claim to be, however, I have seen the devastation done to the local community in Hawaii because non-locals were allowed to acquire land. What happened was this, serious investors from several Asian countries acquired huge tracks of land paying upwards of a few million dollars per acre, but after the land was sold, the locals could no longer afford to buy land.

This has happened in Vietnam, Cambodia, Hawaii, Nevada, California, and other places. I don't want to see it happen in the CNMI, the land should always remain in the hands of the local people, the only changes that should be made are the people whose grandparents are Chamorro or Carolinian and they (the younger generation) are not 100 percent they should be able to own land.

Budget problems, last night while reading up on the budget problems I ran a few numbers and discovered that that CNMI can have a budget surplus of over \$7 million within one year if the Senate can muster the intestinal fortitude to make a few minor changes, without austerity, cutbacks, layoffs, and hurting anyone.

What can they do with \$7 million? Wind generators to provide low cost electricity to the people of the CNMI. I will be presenting this to members of the Senate in July if they are interested in hearing it...I'm always looking to help especially if it gets me my tax return from over 18 months ago...

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

ASSERTING

From Page 10

per it even in our sleep troubled that dawn would bring more bad tidings. TGF and here I am donning the role of an armchair titular head watching bleeps and blunders firing into the heavens on the hill. It's lots of fun but equally troubling too. Yeap! I'm also singing the Monday morning blues, daily or even on non-Mondays if only to mull over how often we miss the target.

■ ■ ■ ■

The fate of the NMI Retirement Fund looks fearfully unstable. The local government owes employer's contribution to the tune of \$300 million. It needs a healthy review. But this and other issues of substance had to languish momentarily until the big guys and gals return from their grand junket to Palau (paid for by hardship-stricken taxpayers) next week.

At the same time, our government is equally disadvantaged by the fact that much needed revenues have gone way Deep South.

Thus, the newly established theme of "delayed" paydays issued to non-essential employees who sigh at the inevitably bad tidings, biweekly.

The intent of the program is further compromised by cuts in work hours or termination. The hope that retirees would have saved some before retirement and supplement their pension with additional income from private industry jobs.






But the increase in basic goods, fuel and other familial obligations has forced the use of savings to make ends meet. Most have been forcibly depleted. It makes retirement pension the single Holy Grail to brace families as they wrestle with the demands of assorted increases triggered by the upward spiral of the price of fossil fuel.

This doesn't include the spiraling cost of health care. Some are fortunate as Medicare or Medicaid recipients. However, most others had to rely on health insurance through their retirement or some other means especially for those who opted out of such plan. It's one tough issue to navigate. The hard times has forced sober thoughts on almost everything we pursue in hopes of offering real solutions over quick fixes.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼82
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼76
Yap	Rain	▲84 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲85 ▼77

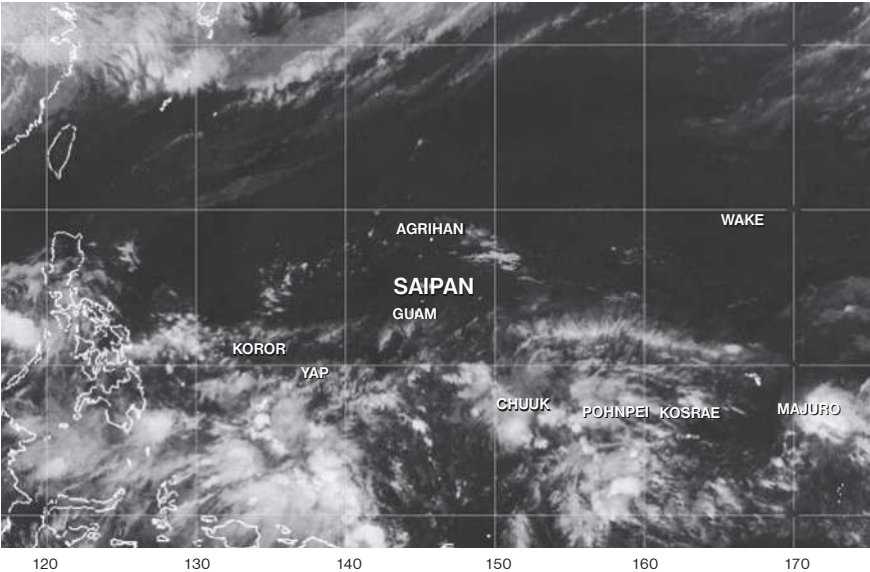
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲60 ▼55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼84
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼60
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲93 ▼78
New York	Showers	▲64 ▼56
Osaka	Cloudy	▲79 ▼68
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼61
Pusan	Cloudy	▲74 ▼66
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼66
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼58
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼65
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲73 ▼66
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼59

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
5:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
1:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 7N130E to end southeast of Koror at EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of a line from 7N130E to 9N134E to 8N138E to 4N142E. This area includes Koror. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from 10N147E to 8N160E to EQ159E to EQ155E back to 10N147E. A surface trough curves northeastward from southeast of Kosrae at 1N164E to just east of Majuro at 8N173E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Majuro between 3N and 8N from 169E to 180 and within 90 miles of a line from 1N165E to 3N170E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:17 PM	4:50 AM
Thursday	7:15 PM	5:49 AM
Friday	8:08 PM	6:49 AM
Saturday	8:56 PM	7:46 AM
Sunday	9:39 PM	8:41 AM

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 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Local recording artist donates to worthy causes

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A longtime local recording artist has donated a percentage of his CD sales earnings to two different causes last Wednesday.

John Ichihara presented a \$500 check donation to Nick Nishikawa and Yoichi Matsumura of the non-profit group NMI Japan Disaster Relief at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Ichihara then proceeded to the San Vicente Church and handed another \$500 donation to parish priest Rey D. Rosal and parish and finance council members Maria Deleon Guerrero, Rita Guerrero, and Lisa Ada.

In an interview, Ichihara said that he initially recorded his original composition, *Si Yu'os Ma'ase' Asagua-hu*, with his daughter Roselle to donate 10 percent of his profits to the church.

"But when I completed the CD, it was on March 11, when the earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "If I can help the church, maybe I could help Japan, too."

Ichihara, who has Japanese lineage because of his grandfather, decided to donate another 10 percent of the proceeds to help the victims of the Japan tragedy.

"I have lots of friends from different parts of Japan. I love Japan," he added.

Matsumura said Ishikawa's donation will be among the monetary donations that will be turned over by NMI Japan Disaster Relief to the Consular Office of Japan.

"We're glad that many people supported his [Ishikawa] fundraising. I'm sure the Japanese people will be very pleased," according to Nishikawa.

For his part, Fr. Rosal said the Ishikawa family has always been very religious and supportive of the church.

"I'm very happy and proud that he composed a song, shared it with others, and helped a good cause," he said.

Ichihara said he hoped to sell more CDs during the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts



Local singer John Ichihara, center, hands the \$500 donation to Nick Nishikawa and Yoichi Matsumura of the NMI Japan Relief Fund in a presentation on Wednesday.



Local singer John Ichihara, center, hands the \$500 donation to Nick Nishikawa and Yoichi Matsumura of the NMI Japan Relief Fund in a presentation on Wednesday.

Festival to meet his target goal of 1,000 CDs sold.

He is confident that he will reach his goal and sell more of the song he wrote for his wife, Brigida, who appears in the CD cover.

"I am overwhelmed by the tremendous

support of the people when they found out that I'm donating part of the proceeds for Japan and San Vicente Church. I invite them to buy a copy of the CD for a good cause."

To buy the CD, contact Ichihara at 235-7423 or email john.ichihara@gmail.com.

BOY SCOUT LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT FINDS:

Some kids' playgrounds OK, more in bad condition

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A life scout with the CNMI Boy Scouts of America has chosen to do an assessment and recommendation report on the state of five children's playgrounds on island as part of an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

In Bum Choo, a junior at Marianas High School, included the Carolinian Village playground, Coral Ocean Point playground, Susupe playground, Pakpak Beach playground, Tanapag playground, and the Paupau Beach playground in his report.

Choo, 18, conducted the assessment last June 6 to 7 after which he made the report that he submitted to different organizations that play a role in maintaining these playgrounds: the Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Rotary Club, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the 17th Legislature, Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Saipan and



CNMI Boy Scouts of America island director Cal Reyes, right, joins life scout In Bum Choo at the Susupe Playground last week. Choo's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project involves making an assessment and submitting a report on the state of five playgrounds on island. With the two is 3-year-old Hope Bonnie Mae Sagana.

Northern Islands Municipal Council.

"I think the project will benefit the community by fixing up playgrounds for kids and parents because if they fix the playgrounds, it would be more safer

for kids and won't get hurt that much and parents won't have to worry much as the children play," he said.

Choo said two other scouts from Troop 913, Richard Defan and Harrison Smith, provided as-

sistance in doing the assessment.

According to Choo, some of the playgrounds are still in good condition "but most are in bad shape and need to be checked, taken down, and repaired so people using it won't get hurt."

Boy Scouts island director Cal Reyes said the boy scouts can come in and provide manpower and technical organization should the involved agencies decide to start repair work on the five playgrounds.

"The boy scout leaders and sponsors can also work collaboratively and assess the other playgrounds on like the Dandan playground," he added.

Reyes thanked Troop 913 scout master Val Welch, Advancement Committee chair William Hunter, adult leaders Christina Smith and Shaun Davis, Tony Benavente of Parks and Recreation, and Perry Tenorio of MVA for all their assistance and support for Choo's project.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Call for volunteers for new breast, cervical health outreach project

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is seeking volunteers to help support its new breast and cervical health outreach project. We are specifically looking for:

1. Female volunteers for a photo shoot this week. We are specifically looking for:

- a grandmother/mother/daughter trio (ages 50+, mid-30s, teens);
- two to three tweens; mother/daughter pairs (two pairs);
- two women ages 50+; and
- breast and cervical cancer survivors for testimonial pieces

2. Outreach volunteers who can commit to a six-week training program with CCA (on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, for two hours per day), and a few hours every month thereafter for a year of volunteer service. Outreach volunteers will play an important role in developing a breast and cervical health outreach plan aimed at educating and empowering women of all ages to reduce their cancer risk.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

June 27 jury selections cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "PS" that the jury selections scheduled for June 27, 2011, at 8:30am in Courtroom 202A are cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact jury coordinator Dora SN. Decena or deputy clerk Rosie Ada at 236-9765. (PR)

Scholarship deadlines

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINES

Deadline for Application: July 1, 2011.

Deadline for supporting documents: Sept. 30, 2011

HONORS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DEADLINES

Who may apply? High school graduates of 2011

Deadline for application AND supporting documents: June 30, 2011.

Application and supporting documents must be received by the CNMI Scholarship Office on or before June 30, 2011.

Pls. visit www.cnmischolarship.com to download application and for more information. (PR)

UOG internships for those interested in natural resources management, agriculture

The University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences offers incoming UOG students for the fall 2011 semester internship opportunities to learn about natural resources management and agriculture. There are five internships available. Interns receive \$7.25 per hour and work 40 hours per week except holidays. The internship runs June 27 to July 29. Contact Dr. Mari Marutani at marutani@ugam.uog.edu. Deadline to apply: June 17, 2011. (UOG)

UOG math placement test Saturday

Students planning to enroll at the University of Guam for the Fall 2011 semester must take the Math Placement Test on Saturday June 18 at 8:30am for last names beginning with the letters A-C; 10:30am for last names beginning with the letters D-K; at 1:30pm for last names beginning with the letters L-R; and at 3:30pm for last names beginning with the letters S-Z. The test will be held in the Science Building rooms SC101 or SC112. Students must bring their admissions application receipt and photo ID to the test. Plan to arrive 20 minutes early for check in. (UOG)

Military training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting military exercises on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on the following dates and times:

- June 13 to 17, from 8am to 6pm
- June 14 and 15, 830am to 430pm

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. (PR)

Business

Airlines collected \$3.4B in bag fees in 2010

NEW YORK (AP)—Passengers hate them, but airlines can't afford to give them up—those aggravating bag fees. U.S. airlines collected \$3.4 billion for checked luggage last year, according to a government report issued Monday. That's up 24 percent from 2009 and a big reason the industry made money again after three years of losses.

In 2010, the major airlines

Christian Noriega of Hayward Calif., with an umbrella on his side checks in at the Philadelphia International Airport Monday, June 13, 2011, in Philadelphia.



made a combined \$2.6 billion in profits, less than they collected in bag fees. The fees—typically \$50 round-trip for the first piece of checked luggage and \$70 for the second—allow the industry to navigate between rising fuel costs and customers who expect rock-bottom airfares.

"If it weren't for the fees, the airlines would most likely be losing money," said Jim Corridore, airline analyst with Standard & Poor's.

That's little comfort for fliers who have increasingly felt nickel-and-dimed by the airlines and now face a summer of higher airfares and packed planes.

"I feel like I am constantly being hit by little things by the airlines," said Lauren DiMarco, a stay-at-home mother from Wenham, Mass. "We're already paying so much money."

Delta generated the most revenue from bag fees—\$952 million—followed by the combined United and Continental at nearly \$655 million. American collected \$580 million and US Airways \$513 million, according to the Department of Transportation. None of those fees are

subject to taxes. Airlines aggressively raised ticket prices early in the year. But those increases couldn't keep up with the price of jet fuel, now 37 percent more than last year. Some more recent attempts to raise fares have failed because passengers balked at paying more.

So instead, the airlines focus on fees.

"Unfortunately, for the airlines when they try to roll \$50 into the ticket prices, people stop buying tickets," said Rick Seaney CEO of FareCompare.com.

Earlier this month, Delta and United raised fees to check a second bag to Europe. Delta also added a fee for second bags checked to Latin America and ended its \$2 discount for paying fees in advance online. Last week, several airlines did remove excess-baggage fees for the military after Delta charged a group of 14 soldiers returning from Afghanistan \$200 each. A YouTube video of two of the soldiers complaining was viewed almost 200,000 times in one day.

FMLA matters

Question: An employee requested FMLA leave and I asked him to have his healthcare provider complete the certification form that's provided for this purpose by the US Department of Labor. He was charged \$50 by his doctor. Is this legal?

My first thought when I received this question was that it must somehow be in violation of the FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). First, I had never heard of any doctor charging separately for filling out this form, as there was a charge for the patient's visit. Second, this is a form that I understood to be required by the FMLA to obtain the leave, and if it is required by law, how can it be charged? I quickly realized that not having encountered a doctor charging for completing the form didn't mean it couldn't be done, and that many required documents, from birth certificates to driver's licenses to copies of transcripts and diplomas, did, in fact, require payment. I didn't really know the answer—so I had to research it before answering the question.

The certification form in question is the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) FMLA form WH-380, Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition, which an employer normally requires an employee, who has requested FMLA leave, to have completed by the employee's doctor. This certification provides the employer with the information necessary to determine whether or not an employee is eligible for FMLA leave. There are separate WH-380 forms (E and F) to certify the employee's and the family member's serious health condition.

My research showed that the practice of charging to complete the form, while new here in the CNMI, has been occurring in the mainland. The FMLA, while allowing the employer to require that the form be completed and requiring the employee to submit it when requested, does not make it a "duty" for the physician to provide the form. The physician can charge for filling out the form, although most complete it as part of the consult. If charged separately as an administrative fee, insurances do not usually cover it. Submitting the form is an employee responsibility and does not have to be reimbursed by the employer. The employee should ensure that the form is fully completed when they accept it from the physician. If the form is incomplete and does not provide the required information, the employer can have the employee return to the physician to obtain the additional information. If the employer feels that the information on the certification might not be valid and requests a second opinion from another physician, the second opinion would be at the employer's expense.

Although this certification is provided by the USDOL, the employer does not have to use it. The employer can create its own form, but it cannot ask for more medical information than is requested on the WH-380 form. The employer may choose not to require any formal certification from the physician if the employee provides in-

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

formation from the physician that the employer considers sufficient to determine that the employee is eligible for FMLA and indicates when the leave should start and when the employee should return to work. Some serious health conditions, such as pregnancy, hospitalization and body parts in casts, are fairly obvious. However, ongoing and intermittent FMLA leaves for an employee's chronic illnesses or for the care of a family member are harder to determine and normally require the certification form.

The FMLA is a relatively new law, enacted in 1993 compared to the FLSA of 1938, which, in the words of a friend of mine with the USDOL, "is still in the state of becoming." It is quite complex and is not easily understood. Most managers know little or nothing about the law. While sick leave and annual leave are not required or regulated by law, when the medical condition qualifies the employee for FMLA, the situation falls under a federal law subject to enforcement by the USDOL with legal liabilities for the employer. Where sick and annual leave issues can be, and often are, dealt with by managers, I would suggest that FMLA leaves be either handled or reviewed by the HR staff. HR staff should also provide training to managers so that they can recognize FMLA-eligible situations. One of the complications of the law is that the employee does not have to specifically ask for FMLA leave. It is the employer's responsibility to recognize the eligibility and process it as an FMLA leave.

This article only addresses the question of whether the physician can charge to complete the certification form, providing a little additional information along the way. In my experience, FMLA is not well understood by employees or by managers and is a headache for HR staff. However, it is a federal law that provides employees with job protection when time-off is needed for situations covered by the law, such as serious personal or family health conditions, the birth or adoption of a child and, a recent addition, certain situations involving military family members.

For more detailed information, forms and fact sheets, please go to <http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla>.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China food costs push inflation to 5.5 pct in May

SHANGHAI (AP)—China's inflation rebounded in May to its highest level in nearly three years, pushed up by stubbornly high food prices, even as interest rate hikes and other controls are cooling the overheated economy. The National Statistics bureau said Tuesday that consumer prices rose 5.5 percent over a year earlier, driven by an 11.7 percent jump in food costs. That was up from April's 5.3 percent rate and exceeded March's 32-month high of 5.4 percent. The figure was in line with economists' forecasts, but well above the government's 4 percent target for the year.

Dalai Lama cautions Australia on mining boom

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Dalai Lama is warning Australia of the ecological dangers of its current mining boom and its burgeoning trade in raw materials exported to China. The Tibetan spiritual leader was visiting

Australia's Parliament House on Tuesday. He said in a press conference that Australia must consider the consequences of its actions.

Australia is the world's largest coal exporter and a major supplier of coal, natural gas and iron ore to China.

American Express rolling out first prepaid card

NEW YORK (AP)—American Express is rolling out its first prepaid card aimed at the general market on Tuesday as it moves to stake a claim in the growing industry. The announcement marks a notable departure for the company, which is known for catering to a more affluent clientele with its signature green charge cards. Prepaid cards, which are often sold in drugstores and can be reloaded with cash, are usually marketed to low-income consumers who don't have credit cards or checking accounts. But Amex is betting that its newest offering will find appeal among a broader swath of consumers.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,953.00 1.06 0.01%	S&P 1,271.83 0.85 0.07%	NASDAQ 2,639.69 -4.04 -0.15%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7837	Philippine Peso	43.325
Australian Dollar	0.9494	Singapore Dollar	1.2366
British Pound	0.6159	South Korean Won	1,082.65
Canadian Dollar	0.9791	Swiss Franc	0.8429
Chinese Yuan	6.4801	Taiwan Dollar	28.7815
Euro	0.6979	Thailand Baht	30.410

Nation

Obama says he would resign if he were Weiner

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, increasing pressure on Rep. Anthony Weiner to quit, said Monday that “I can tell you that if it was me, I would resign.”

In a rare foray into a congressman’s ethical conduct, Obama told NBC’s “Today” show that Weiner’s sexually charged photos and messages online to several women were “highly inappropriate.”

“I think he’s embarrassed himself. He’s acknowledged that. He’s embarrassed his wife and his family. Ultimately, there’s gonna be a decision for him and is constituents. I can tell you that, if it was me, I would resign,” the president said in an interview to air Tuesday morning.

Obama said public service “is exactly that, it’s a service to the public. And when you get to the point where, because of various personal distractions, you can’t serve as effectively as you need to at the time when people are worrying about jobs, and their mortgages, and paying the bills, then you should probably step back.”

Weiner spokeswoman Risa Heller had no comment on Obama’s remarks.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has called for Weiner to quit, as have several other Democrats including party chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The House Ethics Committee on Monday began a preliminary inquiry that could bloom into a full investigation if Weiner, a New York Democrat, ignores calls to resign.

House officials told The Associated Press that the ethics inquiry is not yet extensive, and committee leaders have not indicated whether they will order a more intensive staff investigation. The officials requested anonymity because the committee has not announced the staff inquiry.

If Weiner did resign, the committee would no longer have jurisdiction to investigate him. If he remained in Congress, Ethics Committee Chairman Jo Bonner of Alabama and ranking Democrat Linda Sanchez of California could name a four-member subcommittee to conduct a more



Julie Gu, of South Korea, joins her sister, a Queens resident, at a rally calling for the resignation of U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., in front of the congressman’s New York office Sunday, June 12, 2011.

thorough investigation. That could lead to an ethics trial.

The Ethics Committee is not designed as a quick-reaction force when a scandal erupts. An investigation could last months, even longer, if the case became legally complicated and Weiner decided to mount a full defense.

If the committee decides that a member violated the rules, its options include issuing a written rebuke, recommending the House vote to censure the lawmaker or recommending expelling the member by a two-thirds majority.

Congress returned to work Monday as Weiner began a leave of absence while seeking treatment for an undisclosed disorder at an undisclosed location. House members can seek leaves of absence, which are routinely granted, and the House approved without objection a two-week leave for Weiner at the close of legislative business Monday night.

The Weiner scandal, heading

into its third week, has been a huge embarrassment to Democrats, who are eager to put the controversy behind them.

Weiner is expected to be a dominant topic when House Democrats meet Tuesday morning. They could try to oust Weiner from the caucus or try to strip him of his committee assignment on the Energy and Commerce panels.

Weiner’s vow to seek treatment and to work to repair his tattered reputation did little to ease the furor.

Republicans suggested that Pelosi was not tough enough on Weiner. Michael Steel, a press aide to House Speaker John Boehner, said in an email that Weiner’s intention to seek a leave of absence “puts the focus” on Pelosi.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., who has called for Weiner to resign, said if Weiner does not leave, Democrats should consider taking away his committee assignments.

AP Interview: Gates sees no bar to lifting gay ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Monday that he sees no roadblocks to ending the ban on openly gay military service, and if the top officers of each service recommend moving ahead on the repeal before the end of the month, he will endorse it.

A little over two weeks before ending his 4 1/2 year tenure as Pentagon chief, Gates sat down in his office for an Associated Press interview that touched on a range of issues, including his expectation of a smooth hand-off to his designated successor, current CIA Director Leon Panetta. Gates will retire June 30. Panetta’s Senate confirmation is expected shortly.

Gates sounded a cautiously optimistic note about developments in troubled Yemen, where the government and opposition tribes have engaged in armed clashes, pushing the country toward civil war. Gates said things have calmed down a bit since President Ali Abdullah Saleh left for neighboring Saudi Arabia on June 5 for medical treatment of wounds he



Secretary of Defense Robert Gates pauses as he speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in his office at the Pentagon Monday, June 13, 2011 in Washington.

suffered in an attack on his compound in Yemen.

“I don’t think you’ll see a full-blown war there,” Gates said. “With Saleh being in Saudi Arabia, maybe something can be worked out to bring this to a

close,” by finding an accommodation among Saleh’s family, the opposition tribes and the military.

The move to end the ban on gay services could be one of Gates’ final acts as defense chief. But Gates stressed that he is not

trying to hurry the process along, and that if it is not ready by the end of the month, Panetta can take action when he steps in.

More than a million U.S. troops have been trained on the new law that repealed the 17-year-old ban on gays serving openly in the armed services, and Gates said the instruction has gone well.

“I think people are pretty satisfied with the way this process is going forward,” he said. “I think people have been mildly and pleasantly surprised at the lack of pushback in the training.”

Still, he noted that decades after women entered military service, there are still persistent problems with sexual assaults. So, the notion that there will be no ugly incidents when the ban is lifted is “unrealistic,” he said.

Under the law passed last December and the detailed process laid out this year by the Pentagon, the military chiefs report to Gates every two weeks on training progress and must eventually make a recommendation on whether the repeal will damage the military’s ability to fight.

Battle against Arizona fire moves to NM border

LUNA, N.M. (AP)—Crews who’ve been battling a massive wildfire in eastern Arizona for two weeks shifted their focus Monday to New Mexico, where they lit fires to stifle a flare-up that skipped along treetops toward a small mountain town.

In the opposite corner of New Mexico, near the Colorado border, a wildfire that has forced hundreds of people from their homes more than doubled in size to an estimated 6,000 acres, after being fanned by high winds.

“We’re watching trees explode before our eyes. It’s horrendous,” said Barbara Riley, a schoolteacher and bed-and-breakfast owner in the northeastern New Mexico community of Raton.

A 20-mile section of the main north-south highway through New Mexico and Colorado remained closed due to the fire, causing hundreds of travelers to drive hours out of their way.

At the Wallow fire Monday, crews worked furiously to protect the working-class mountain town of Luna, N.M., after a successful weekend of no major fire growth.

Hundreds of firefighters worked alongside U.S. Highway 180 between Luna and the state line, hacking down brush and using chain saws to cut down trees. The other side of the road was blackened from the fires they set to clear a break.

At Luna Lake in Arizona, a steady stream of helicopters collected water and flew west to attack flames sending up a huge plume of thick, gray smoke from the pines. Fire officials said the flare-up was in the tree crowns, an ominous sign that the fire was gaining. It was still more than three miles from Luna.

Earlier Monday, Catron County Undersheriff Ian Fletcher said he had not ordered the 200 or so residents of Luna to leave, but had a plan in case it was needed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Maine man killed wife, 2 kids, self

DEXTER, Maine (AP)—A father angry over being denied access to his children and legally barred from seeing them went to their home Monday morning and killed them, his estranged wife and then himself. Investigators can’t say for sure what pushed Steven Lake over the edge, Maine State Po-

lice Maj. Gary Wright said, but a relative told The Associated Press that Lake was frustrated by an ongoing custody dispute and particularly upset at having to miss his son’s eighth-grade graduation. Lake, 37, shot and killed 38-year-old schoolteacher Amy Lake and their two children, 12-year-old Monica and 13-year-old Cote, with a shotgun before killing

himself Monday morning, Wright said. Police also found a flammable liquid poured around the inside of the house, but it wasn’t ignited.

2 Missouri River levees break near Iowa-Mo. border

HAMBURG, Iowa (AP)—The swollen Missouri River ruptured two levees in north-

west Missouri on Monday, sending torrents of floodwater over rural farmland toward a small town in Iowa and a resort community in Missouri. Water rushing from a nearly 300-foot-wide hole in a levee near Hamburg was expected to continue widening the breach and reach the top of a secondary levee protecting the southwest Iowa town by Wednesday, the Army Corps

of Engineers said. If the secondary wall fails, parts of Hamburg could be under as much as 10 feet of standing water.

Pa. judge: No expulsion for kindergarten touching

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A judge has overturned a kindergarten’s expulsion from a Philadelphia charter school for

touching his teacher’s thighs after she complained that her legs hurt. The 6-year-old, who had three earlier suspensions, was merely trying to comfort his teacher, the judge concluded. “I want to make them feel better,” the boy told his teacher, according to a May 23 ruling by Common Pleas Judge Paul P. Panepinto, first reported on by The Legal Intelligencer.

Asia

Security tight in riot-torn southern Chinese city

BEIJING (AP)—Security forces patrolled the streets and manned roadblocks Tuesday in a southern Chinese city where rioting factory workers attacked police stations and torched vehicles over the weekend, residents said.

No major incidents have been reported since Sunday in Xintang in the southern manufacturing hub of Guangdong province, where tens of thousands of migrant workers enraged by the reported beating of a street vendor turned on authorities.

While violent protests in China have become frequent over the past decade, recent weeks have seemed particularly turbulent. The vast region of Inner Mongolia last month saw its biggest street demonstrations in two decades, while a man angry over land seizures set off three homemade bombs at government buildings in another southern city, killing three people and wounding at least nine others.

Thousands of protesters attacked government offices in the central city of Lichuan last week following the alleged beating death of a local city council member while in police custody.

Though the triggers for the events are different, most are driven by common resentments over social inequality, abuse of power and suppression of legiti-



Police officers stand guard in a street in Zengcheng in the suburbs of Guangzhou, Guangdong province, southern China, Monday night, June 13, 2011. AP

mate grievances.

China's Communist Party leadership has reacted nervously to the turmoil, especially after popular uprisings began sweeping the Middle East and North Africa this year. In recent months, hundreds of government critics have been questioned, arrested or simply disappeared.

Xintang residents contacted by phone Tuesday said security forces were a constant presence on city streets and shops

and restaurants had been ordered to close early.

They said they had been told not to go out at night or transmit photos of the unrest online. That demand reflects authorities' fears of unrest spreading via the Internet amid scattered calls for migrants to converge on Xintang for a new round of protests to demand the release of 25 people reportedly arrested over the violence.

"Nobody wants to come out.

They fear running into danger," said a worker at the Xintang Ruilong clothing factory, located near the scene of Sunday's rioting outside the local government headquarters. The man would only give his surname, Wang, for fear of reprisals.

Along with the security crackdown, authorities have sought to pressure businesses to prevent their workers joining any protests. Managers from 1,200 businesses in the area were called to

a meeting Monday and ordered to "pay good attention to your people and keep a close eye on your front gate."

"Get your own houses in order and act on your own to maintain social stability," managers were told, according to an account posted on the Xintang government's website.

Staff answering calls to local police and government offices said they were not permitted to

comment further and refused to give their names.

The violence in Xintang broke out Friday evening after a pregnant woman was pushed to the ground in a sweep against street vendors, most of whom are migrants from the southwestern province of Sichuan. Such disputes are common and bystanders often side with the vendors and accuse police of heavy-handed tactics.

6 more workers may exceed Japan's radiation limit

TOKYO (AP)—Six more workers at Japan's tsunami-damaged nuclear power plant may have exceeded the radiation exposure limit, bringing the total to eight, the government said Monday.

The health and labor ministry released the preliminary results of tests on how much radiation they had been exposed to as they worked at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. Three men are control room operators and the five others worked to restore power that was knocked out by the earthquake and tsunami March 11.

Operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said none of them was showing immediate health problems but would require long-term monitoring as they have an increased risk of cancer. All eight have been transferred to desk jobs.

"We find it extremely regrettable," said Tadashi Mori, a health ministry official in charge of occupational health, referring to the six likely additions. Mori said the ministry plans to take "appropriate steps" over TEPCO's violation when the results are confirmed.

The government soon after the disaster raised the radiation limit for men to 250 millisieverts from the standard 100 millisieverts so workers could tackle the emergency.

The health ministry also said Monday that at least 90 others have exceeded the earlier limit of 100 millisieverts, including several who are nearing the higher limit.

On Friday, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said that the first two workers who reached the government's limit had been exposed to more than double that amount. It reprimanded TEPCO and demanded an investigative report within a week. The health ministry separately submitted a written warning over the two workers' exposures and is likely to do the same for the six additional workers if their cases are confirmed.

The two control room operators were exposed to more than 600 millisieverts—about 100 CT scans—mostly by inhaling radioactive particles, NISA spokesman Hidehiko Nishiya-

ma said.

The newly confirmed six workers may have exposures from about 265 millisieverts to 498 millisieverts, mostly while working at the plant March 12 when a hydrogen explosion heavily damaged the Unit 1 reactor building, TEPCO spokesman Junichi Matsumoto told a news conference.

TEPCO already has admitted that workers in the earliest, most chaotic, and most dangerous moments of the crisis did not wear masks, possibly other protective gear as well, and lacked dosimeters to monitor their radiation exposures in real time. TEPCO has been warned for failing to observe a legal requirement to provide a dosimeter each for those entering controlled areas.

Workers have been fighting to get the plant under control since the quake and tsunami knocked out its power and cooling systems, largely melting three reactor cores. Explosions, especially in the immediate days after the disaster, scattered radioactive particles and debris around the plant, making their working environment highly dangerous.

"The workers had received safety instructions, but I believe that probably slipped their mind in the crisis," Matsumoto said.

Matsumoto said the operator now removes workers from the plant work when their exposures exceed 170 millisieverts. By end of May, a total of 25 workers have been reassigned to other jobs, according to NISA.

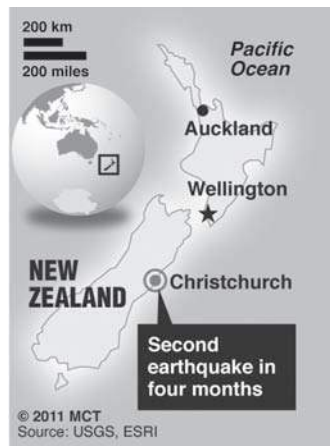
On Monday, plant workers struggled to complete a system designed to reprocess tons of highly radioactive water leaking from the reactors, with its planned test-run delayed by leakage and malfunctioning of pumps and other parts detected at the last minute, TEPCO said. A full operation of the system, initially set for Wednesday, would have to be postponed for a few days, setting off concerns about a possible overflow of the contaminated water pooling around the plant.

The revelation about the workers' high exposures have boosted concerns about health risks at the plant.

NZ quakes cause death of nursing home resident

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Power was mostly restored to New Zealand's quake-rattled city of Christchurch on Tuesday, following strong aftershocks that brought down new buildings and caused the death of one nursing home resident.

The latest quakes—the strongest of which was 6.0 in magnitude—left tens of thousands without electricity Monday, on a winter night when temperatures approached freezing. By Tuesday afternoon, around 7,000 households were still without power. The power company Orion said it was providing generators to fill some of the gap.



Water supplies were also compromised, and Mayor Bob Parker was encouraging people to boil their water.

More than 40 people suffered injuries, most of them minor, in the latest earthquakes. But the Canterbury District Health Board confirmed that a quake caused the death of one elderly resident of a nursing home, according to a spokeswoman who requested anonymity, citing policy. She did not have further details.

Thousands of aftershocks have followed the 6.3-magnitude quake that killed 181 people on Feb. 22. That tremor and its aftershocks have been very shallow and close to the city, making them very destructive.

Monday's quakes sent bricks

crashing down in the cordoned-off city center, where only workers have tread since it was devastated in February. About 200 people were there when the quakes struck Monday, and two were briefly trapped in a church.

The aftershocks worsened the damage to dozens more buildings and caused one of the last buildings standing in downtown to collapse. One house fell off a cliff in the shaking.

On Tuesday, Parker warned residents not to enter houses that have been condemned.

"We can avoid calamities for our people even if we can't our buildings," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China death toll from flooding at 105, 63 missing

BEIJING (AP)—China says the death toll from recent flooding has risen to 105 people with 63 others missing. The Ministry of Civil Affairs said Tuesday that most of the deaths were in central Hunan province, where torrential rain is expected to continue until Friday. Rain-triggered mudslides and landslides have already killed 39 people there, with 21 others missing. The ministry says 35 million yuan (\$5 million) has been allocated to central Guizhou province for disaster relief. Twenty-four people have died in Guizhou and another 32 are missing.

Filipino journalist slain; 4th killed this year

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A hard-hitting radio commentator was fatally shot Monday on his way to work in the eastern Philippines, becoming the fourth journalist slain this year in a country with a dismal record of prosecuting the killers. Two witnesses who brought the bloodied body of Romeo Olea to a hospital said they heard gunshots and saw the radioman's motorcycle fall on its side along a deserted stretch of highway, police Superintendent Ronald Briones said. He said the witnesses did not see who fired the two shots in Iriga city in Camarines Sur province.

Amnesty urges Malaysia to arrest Sudan leader

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Amnesty International is asking Malaysia to revoke its invitation for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to attend an economic forum this weekend or to arrest him when he shows up because he is wanted on war crimes charges. Malaysia's government says Al-Bashir is among several African leaders who will attend the three-day forum starting Sunday in Malaysia. The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for al-Bashir for allegedly orchestrating atrocities in Darfur.

World

Libyan rebels break out toward Tripoli

MISRATA, Libya (AP)—Libyan rebels Monday broke out toward Tripoli from the opposition-held port of Misrata 140 miles to the east, cracking a government siege as fighters across the country mounted a resurgence in their four-month-old revolt against Moammar Gadhafi.

The rebels gained a diplomatic boost as well when the visiting the German foreign minister said the nascent opposition government was “the legitimate representative of the Libyan people.” Guido Westerwelle was visiting Benghazi, the capital of the rebel-held east of the country, to open a liaison office and hand over medical supplies.

He stopped short of full diplomatic recognition of the Transitional National Council, as has the United States, awaiting the ouster of Moammar Gadhafi from his more than 40-year rule in the oil-rich North African country.

Germany has refused to participate in NATO airstrikes in Libya and withheld its support for the U.N. resolution



Rebel fighters give the “V” sign following heavy clashes with pro-Gadhafi forces on the front line at Dafniya, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Misrata, Libya, Monday, June 13, 2011.

that allowed the attacks.

What started as a peaceful uprising against Gadhafi has become a civil war, with poorly equipped and trained rebel fighters taking control of the eastern third of Libya and pockets of the west.

But the fighting had reached a stalemate until last week when NATO began the heaviest bombardment of Gadhafi forces since the alliance took control of the skies over Libya under a U.N. resolution to protect civilians from Gadhafi’s wrath. NATO has been pounding Gadhafi military and government position with increasing vigor and the rebels are again on the move.

Gadhafi’s power has been considerably degraded by the NATO attacks as well military and government defections.

In London, Libyan analysts reported Monday that Gadhafi had lost another close official who defected and fled the country.

Sassi Garada, one of the first men

to join Gadhafi when he took power, left Libya through Tunisia, according to Noman Benotman, a Libyan analyst in London who was in contact with his friends and family. Guma el-Gamaty, U.K. organizer for Libya’s interim council, also confirmed the defection.

There were initial reports that Garada fled to Britain, where he has several family members, but Benotman said Garada was in Switzerland.

British officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss immigration and security matters, said they could not confirm whether Garada was in the U.K. Swiss Foreign ministry spokeswoman Carole Waelti told AP the government was “not aware of the possible presence of Mr. Garada in Switzerland.”

Garada reportedly passed up several military promotions over the years to stay out of the limelight and serve Gadhafi, said Benotman, who works as an analyst for the London-based Quilliam Foundation.

Behind barbed wire, Syrians find refuge in Turkey



GUVECCI, Turkey (AP)—Syrians streamed across the border Monday into neighboring Turkey, finding sanctuary in refugee camps ringed by barbed wire and offering a frightening picture of life back home where a deadly crackdown on dissent is fueling a popular revolt.

Turkey’s prime minister has accused Syrian President Bashar Assad’s regime of “savagery,” but also said he would reach out to the Syrian leader to help solve the crisis. Still, many of the nearly 7,000 refugees in Turkey say they expect their government to inflict only more violence and pain.

Refugees were pouring across the border to flee a crackdown Sunday that sent elite forces backed by helicopters and tanks into Jisr al-Shughour, a northern town that spun out of govern-

ment control for a week. Troops led by Assad’s brother regained control of Jisr al-Shughour on Sunday, and residents ran for their lives.

In Guvecci, two Syrians gave a bleak picture of life across the frontier.

“There are 7,000 people across the border, more and more women and children are coming toward the barbed wires,” said Abu Ali, who left Jisr al-Shughour. “Jisr is finished, it is razed.”

Turkey and Syria once nearly went to war, but the two countries have cultivated warm relations in recent years, lifting travel visa requirements for their citizens and promoting business ties.

Turkey and Syria share a 520-mile (850 kilometer) border, which includes several Syrian provinces. Refugees and relatives on both sides appeared to be crossing unimpeded around the vil-

lage of Guvecci.

Syrian refugees staged open-air noon prayers behind wire fences Monday at the Boynuyogun refugee camp inside Turkey. At another camp in the town of Altinozu, refugee families flashed V for victory signs as police guarded their compound.

Turkish authorities have blocked the media from entering the camps. Turkey appears to be trying to limit the publicity of the crisis even as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who won a landslide victory in Sunday’s general elections, says he will speak

to Assad soon. Despite their support of NATO intervention in Libya, Arab governments have not responded to Syria’s crackdown, fearing the chaos that could follow Assad’s fall. The country has a potentially explosive sectarian mix and is seen as a regional powerhouse with influence on events in neighboring Israel, Lebanon and Iraq.

A reported mutiny in Jisr al-Shughour posed one of the most serious threats to the Assad regime since protests against his rule began in mid-March. Assad has made some concessions, but thousands of people demonstrating weekly—inspired by protests in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere—say they will not stop until he leaves power.

Chile volcano grounds more flights

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The drifting plume of ash from Chile’s erupting volcano forced new cancellations of dozens of flights on Monday in Argentina, Uruguay and other South American countries, even as airlines in Australia began trying to move a backlog of volcano-stranded passengers.

Buenos Aires’ two main airports reopened on Monday after halting flights for a day due to the cloud of fine grit, which can damage airplane engines. The civil aviation agency said the ash in the air had diminished.

The cloud also has drifted across the Pacific Ocean, and most flights between Australia and New Zealand remained grounded.

In Argentina, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was among those inconvenienced by the closings of Buenos Aires’ airports. He was forced to fly instead into the city of Cordoba and travel on by car to visit President Cristina Fernandez in the capital.

All flights were canceled at the in-

ternational airport in Montevideo, Uruguay, and some were grounded in Chile, Paraguay and Brazil.

Airlines in Australia started flying a backlog of thousands of stranded passengers to and from the city of Melbourne on Monday as ash cleared somewhat after forcing hundreds of cancellations. Australia’s Bureau of Meteorology said the ash cloud was large enough, however, to disrupt more flights later in the week.

Chile’s Cordon Caulle volcano began erupting on June 4. Since then, about 4,000 Chileans have been evacuated from the area.

Ash began to fall on Monday in some towns of the Rininahue Valley in Chile, where residents had been evacuated last week by troops and police. Television images showed roofs and cars coated with ash.

Army troops were handing out masks in other nearby areas as a precaution in case the ash cloud drifted toward them, said Enrique Valdivieso,

the director of Chile’s National Geology and Mines Service.

Last week, the ash cloud grounded hundreds of flights in parts of South America.

Aerolineas Argentinas rerouted incoming flights from Europe on Monday away from Buenos Aires and instead to Cordoba, about 430 miles (700 kilometers) to the northwest.

Other regional airports in southern Argentina have been closed since last week.

Brazilian airlines Gol and TAM informed passengers that flights to Argentina and Uruguay were called off Monday until further notice because of unsafe conditions caused by the shifting ashes.

In Chile, the airline LAN on Sunday and Monday halted some flights between Santiago and various cities in South America, as well as to Australia and New Zealand. In Colombia, Avianca suspended flights between Bogota and Buenos Aires on Sunday and Monday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Report: 70 pct. of arms seized in Mexico from US

MEXICO CITY (AP)—About 70 percent of the guns seized in Mexico and submitted to a U.S. gun-tracing program came from the United States, according to a report released by three U.S. senators Monday. Of the 29,284 firearms recovered by authorities in Mexico in 2009 and 2010, 20,504 came from the United States, according to figures provided to the senators by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Most of those weapons—15,131—were U.S. made, while another 5,373 were of foreign manufacture but had moved through the United States into Mexico.

Syrian blog hoaxer says sorry, but anger remains

LONDON (AP)—A 40-year-old American man living in Scotland said Monday he’s sorry for posing as a Syrian lesbian blogger who offered vivid accounts of life amid revolt and repression in Damascus, a still-unraveling hoax that has exposed the difficulty of sifting truth from fiction online. Tom MacMaster said he created the fictional persona of Amina Ar-

raf and the “Gay Girl in Damascus” blog to draw attention to conditions in a Middle East convulsed by change. “I never meant to hurt anyone,” the Edinburgh University grad student wrote in a long apology on the blog. The university said it had suspended MacMaster’s computer privileges while it investigated whether he had breached its rules.

Egypt spy allegations against Israeli questioned

JERUSALEM (AP)—Friends and relatives of a U.S.-born Israeli arrested in Egypt on spy charges said Monday he is a law student in Atlanta with an avid interest in the Mideast—and not a Mossad agent out to sabotage Egypt’s revolution, as Egyptian authorities claim. His mother and a fellow student said he arrived in Cairo only in May. Late Monday, the official Egyptian News Agency said the investigation showed he arrived in Egypt just before the protests began on Jan. 25 and was in the square where the protests were centered every day, “inciting sedition, spreading rumors, and urging protesters toward friction with the armed forces and to commit acts of violence.”

Campus Life

DES cultural day, reading carnival draws crowd

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Over 100 people took part in Dandan Elementary School's annual cultural day and reading carnival celebration.

Principal Martha Kintol expressed her satisfaction on the turnout for last Friday's event, which aimed to promote appreciation on the various ethnic origins as well as promote reading as an enjoyable and fun activity among children.

Kintol disclosed that the combined celebration was the first for the school, which usually held its biggest cultural fundraiser with a host of activities like the popular Tottotville King and Queen.

But due to the current financial shortfall and in consideration of the parents' financial situation, the popularity contest was scrapped.

"So what we did was we combined our PTSA cultural fundraiser with our reading carnival. This week, we celebrated our book fair and we held many activities in classrooms such as peer reading, teachers' reading, and we even invited parents'



Students are seen trying their best in one of the games during Dandan Elementary School's cultural day and reading carnival last Friday.



Dandan Elementary School vice principal Reo Arriola shows the finalists for the school's door display contest which were showcased in the cafeteria last Friday.

guests throughout the week. We're bringing all this activities into one final celebration," said Kintol.

For the children to be able to play games and get a prize, they have to earn tickets and coupons from the "reading booths," according to the principal.

Besides the cultural performances, various games and reading activities also highlighted the celebration.

Crowd-drawers among children were the "pick letters to spell a win," "play boggle and win a prize," "singing bee," and other games.

In the past years, DES-PTSA targetted bigger amounts for specific school projects. This year, the group surpassed the \$2,000 goal for the classroom supplies and students' school uniform for the beginning of the school year.

Despite the "simple" celebra-

tion last week, Kintol said the school has effectively conveyed and met the events' objectives.

Vice principal Reo Arriola said besides the outdoor activities, spectators were also invited in the school cafeteria where finalists for the door display contest were showcased.

Cultural day coordinator and PTSA secretary Elaine Cabrera said they also launched the Tottotville Talent Show this year where 11 groups signed in for the competition. This year's top raffle prize was \$250 from the PTSA and consolation prizes from private sector donors.

Barcinas replaces Mesngon as Buck Battalion commander

Cadet Lt. Col. Ezra A. Barcinas replaced Cadet Lt. Col. Blaine Sn. Mesngon as Buck Battalion commander during a change of command ceremony last June 3 at the Rota High School Gymnasium.

Cadet Major Jenynlyn Dela Cruz served as the commander of cadets during the ceremony, which honored the accomplishments of the outgoing battalion commander as well as paid tribute to the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The bi-annual event was witnessed by the entire RHS faculty and student body. Antenille M. Santos, who is an alumnus of RHS and a former Buck Battalion commander, was the inspirational speaker and RHS principal Sharlene Manglona gave the opening remarks.

CNMI PTSA Advisory Council vice president Edita Taimanao, RHS PTA president Therese Hizon, and Marla Barcinas, RHS PTA vice president, Lt. Col. Robert Gay, Phil Quitugua from the multi-school unit headquarters, and the ca-



Incoming Buck Battalion Commander Cadet Lt. Col. Ezra A. Barcinas, left, and outgoing battalion commander Cadet Lt. Col. Blaine Sn. Mesngon during the turnover ceremony last June 3.

det's parents and family members also attended the event.

The new chain of command will be challenged with a new mission at the end of this month. They have been aggressively planning, organizing, and coordinating the training sites for the CNMI Multiple School Unit (MSU) JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) on Rota. Training will include 150 cadets from all five high schools who will participate in various leadership positions and team building activities.

The Buck Battalion also expressed its appreciation to Gay, PSS MSU JROTC Director of Army Instructions, for selecting

Rota as the training site from June 17 to 23.

Additionally, the battalion would like to extend its gratitude to Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita Sablan for supporting the annual event, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola for providing site support, and Dr. Rita Inos Junior High School principal Maria S. Quitugua for the use of the campus as the campsite.

The Buck Battalion is anxiously awaiting the arrival of their cadet counterparts which will invariably result in the development of new skills and inter-island collaboration in numerous training events under a field environment. (PR)

Rota High Buck Battalion Military Ball a success

The 12th Military Ball hosted by the Rota High School Buck Battalion last June 4 at the Rota Roundhouse was a tremendous success.

Cadets planned, organized, coordinated, and executed this formal event as part of the requirements by 8th Brigade Cadet Command, in Fort Lewis, Washington.

The distinguished guests included the Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and first lady Estrella Mendiola, Board of Education vice chair D. Tanya King, Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) and his wife Lydia, and Jovita Taimanao.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Gay, Director of Army Instruction (DAI) for the CNMI Multiple School Unit, his MSU staff, as well as all the Senior Army In-

structors from the Ayuyu, Dolphin, Manta Ray, and Stallion Battalions, and their respective cadet battalion commanders were in attendance.

Mayor Mendiola provided the inspirational and commended the program for their service to the island of Rota during community fiestas, events, and ceremonies.

The highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by the Buck cadets which included singers, dancers, and the Female Fancy Drill. Cadet Lt. Col. Blaine Mesngon is the outgoing battalion commander and Cadet Lt. Col. Ezra A. Barcinas will lead the Buck Battalion for the SY 2011-2012. Military ball chair Cadet 1LT Zahra A. Frazier also served as master of ceremony.

Gay served as the keynote speaker. In college, he participated in SROTC and was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant upon graduation. Prior to entering the U.S. Army he received two free agent football tryouts as a linebacker/fullback with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots.

During his junior officer tenure he commanded five companies which included an Infantry company, Basic Training and United Nations Command billets. He was Airborne Ranger and was assigned to the prestigious West Point Military Academy as one of the coach for the cadets on the Army Football Team. He also served as Battalion Executive Officer, and Division Inspector General. (PR)



The Rota High School Buck Battalion successfully hosted its 12th Military Ball last June 4 at the Rota Roundhouse.

Life & Style

Producer fights extradition with daughter's words

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A reality show producer fighting extradition to stand trial on a charge he killed his wife in Mexico has introduced statements by his young daughter to contradict police witnesses and the theory his wife was killed in their hotel room.

Attorneys for Bruce Beresford-Redman claimed Monday in a court filing that Mexican authorities “rushed to judgment” to build a case against the former “Survivor” producer and that the aggravated homicide case against him is built on speculation and assumptions.

They are asking a federal judge to reject returning Beresford-Redman to Mexico to stand trial.

The 24-page filing includes statements by a therapist who has interviewed the couple's 6-year-old daughter and says the child didn't see their father hit her mother on an April 2010 vacation.

Beresford-Redman's wife, Monica, was found dead in a sewer at a swank resort days after other guests said they heard loud fighting coming from the room the couple shared with their young children.

The therapist reported that the young girl told her that her parents were playing a loud game the morning that Monica Beresford-Redman disappeared and that accounted for the noise coming



In this May 26, 2010 file photo, Bruce Beresford-Redman, the former “Survivor” producer pauses for a photo at his home in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Attorneys for Beresford-Redman argue in new court filings against requests by Mexico and U.S. prosecutors to extradite the former “Survivor” producer.

from the room, the filing states.

“Mommy and Daddy did not yell at each other and never hit each other,” the therapist reported Camila Beresford-

Redman told her. “Mommy and Daddy never hit each other anywhere, any time.”

The therapist signed a sworn declaration stating she asked

the girl several questions about her family's trip to Mexico earlier this month, and that the girl seemed credible.

“In my opinion, Camila did not appear to be embellishing or making up the information she gave me,” wrote Cathleen Carlson, a licensed family and marriage therapist for 12 years.

“It was very clear to me that she had not been exposed to any physical abuse between her parents,” Carlson wrote.

U.S. federal prosecutors have cited a statement Bruce Beresford-Redman allegedly made later to a hotel clerk in which he admitted he and his wife had been arguing.

Mexican authorities have also cited statements from a resort worker who reported seeing Beresford-Redman attempt to strike his wife.

Prosecutors have also cited an extramarital affair that Bruce Beresford-Redman was engaged in as a motive for killing his wife. While the producer's attorneys acknowledge that motive “the strongest piece of evidence,” they state that forensic evidence found in the couple's hotel room doesn't support the theory that Monica Beresford-Redman was killed there or that her husband dragged her body to the sewer.

The Emmy-nominated producer and co-creator of “Pimp My Ride” has been jailed since

November, when he was arrested on a fugitive warrant. He has denied killing his wife and his attorneys have repeatedly blasted the investigation into Monica Beresford-Redman's killing.

In their filing on Monday, they cited other instances of

violence against tourists in Cancun, cited drug violence in the region and called the Quintana Roo state “a cesspool of political corruption.”

Beresford-Redman's extradition hearing is scheduled for July 12.

Carl Gardner, Coasters lead singer, dies at 83

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (AP)—Carl Gardner, original lead singer of the R&B group the Coasters, has died in Florida. He was 83.

Gardner's wife Veta said her husband died Sunday at a Port St. Lucie hospice following a long bout with congestive heart failure and vascular dementia.

Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, the Coasters had a string of hits in the late 1950s, including “Searchin’,” “Poison Ivy” and “Young Blood.” Their single “Yakety Yak” reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 following its 1958 release. It also spent seven weeks as the No. 1 rhythm and blues song.

“He loved his singing,” Veta Gardner said of her husband of 24 years. “That was his whole life.”

The Coasters have continued to perform over the decades, with multiple changes to the lineup. Gardner has always held the rights to the group's name, and his son, Carl Gardner Jr., took over as lead singer when his father retired in 2005.

According to the group's website, the elder Gardner was born in Tyler, Texas, and moved to Los Angeles in the early 1950s. He became a founding member of The

Coasters in 1955. The Coasters had 14 songs on the R&B charts, and eight of them crossed over to the pop Top 40, according to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Their hits were written by the famed team of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. “The Coasters’ parlayed their R&B roots into rock ‘n’ roll hits by delivering Leiber and Stoller’s serio-comic tunes in an uptempo doo-wop style. Beneath the humor the songs often made incisive points about American culture for those willing to dig a little deeper,” the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame entry on the group says.

In the 1960s, their hits were covered by The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and other British Invasion bands.

Gardner had been a longtime advocate for legislation that would prevent bogus groups from using the names of famous acts like The Coasters, The Drifters, The Shirelles, The Platters and many others. Florida lawmakers passed such legislation in 2007.

“He was such a humble person,” his wife said. “If you met Carl, you would never know he was famous.”

A viewing and funeral services are scheduled for next week in Port St. Lucie.

‘Spider-Man’ producer Laura Ziskin dies at 61

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Laura Ziskin was a “Spider-Man” novice when she first met with her future producing partner on the blockbuster film franchise.

She quickly became an expert on the Marvel Comics superhero and his alter-ego Peter Parker, applying the same tenacity that took her from humble beginnings as a game-show writer to Hollywood's top echelons in a career of nearly 40 years.

“She became a geek,” said Avi Arad, producer on the “Spider-Man” films with Ziskin, 61, who died Sunday at her Santa Monica home after a seven-year battle with breast cancer. “The biggest thing to know and remember about her is her passion. I remember her coming into ‘Spider-Man’ and how fast she learned everything there is to learn. ...

“She became a bonafide geek,” said Arad, who was head of Marvel Comics’ film division when he and Ziskin first met. “Her office now looks more like my office than a normal Hollywood producer's office. A lot of Spidey stuff. She fell in love with Peter Parker, and we had this great fortune that she fell in love with him. It was a great team. She was the best partner I ever had. We couldn't have made these movies without her.”

With \$2.5 billion at the box office worldwide, the three “Spider-Man” films were the peak of Ziskin's professional career, which included shepherding such films as “Fight Club,” “Pretty Woman” “No Way Out” and “As Good as It Gets” as producer, executive producer or studio executive.

Yet friends and colleagues mark among her greatest achievements the fund-raising and research organization she co-founded in 2008, Stand Up To Cancer.

Ziskin joined with other women in the entertainment industry, including TV news-woman Katie Couric and former Paramount Pictures studio boss Sherry Lansing, to form the group that has raised nearly \$200 million for cancer research.

“Laura was the heart and soul of Stand Up To Cancer,” Lansing said. “She dreamed big and attacked every challenge with creativity, passion, perseverance and intelligence.”

Ziskin was executive producer for two “Stand Up To Cancer” fund-raising specials that aired simultaneously on major TV networks in 2008 and 2010, featuring such stars as Denzel Washington, Gwyneth Paltrow, Reese Witherspoon, George

Clooney, Halle Berry, Jennifer Aniston and Stevie Wonder.

Despite her disease, Ziskin worked until the end. She was busy on a fourth installment of Spidey's adventures, next year's “The Amazing Spider-Man,” Marvel Comics and Sony Pictures’ reboot of the franchise, with Andrew Garfield taking over from Tobey Maguire as Peter Parker.

“She never wanted anyone to use the words, she never wanted anyone to say she was fighting cancer. She had survived so many impossible situations that up until the end, we were all expecting her to sit up and go, ‘What are you all doing here?’” said Sony Pictures Co-Chairman Amy Pascal, who called Ziskin her closest friend. “She will always be with us in spirit. She will always be our girl.”

Ziskin remained tireless in her support of cancer research, posting a feisty Web blog earlier this month to mark National Cancer Survivors Day.

“Cancer sucks, and each and every day I have moments of telling it where to go. And today, on National Cancer Survivors Day, I can shout it from the rooftops!” Ziskin wrote. “While somewhat more crass assertions also readily come to mind, what

I really want to say is: ‘Cancer, you can’t survive ME!’”

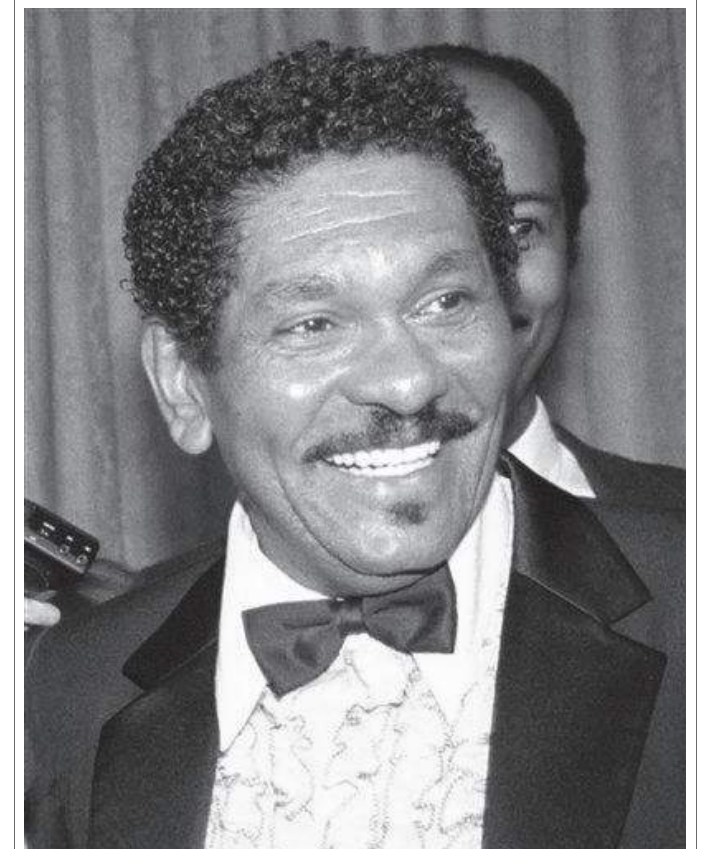
When Ziskin was feeling well, she was the same unflinching producer she always had been, “Spider-Man” colleague Arad said.

And “when she was in treatment, she was always a phone call away. She was really big on emails, so there was no escape,” Arad said. “Being in some very, very difficult, experimental treatments, she was in touch. You felt her everywhere, if she was in the hospital or if she was in the office. She’s one of those people, I don’t know where they get this energy. I thought I was an energetic person, but next to her, I was too calm.”

Born in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, Ziskin studied filmmaking at the University of Southern California, wrote for game shows after graduating in 1973 then moved into producing.

Her other credits include “Murphy’s Romance,” “Hero,” “What About Bob?” and Clooney’s live TV movie “Fail Safe.”

In 2002, Ziskin became the first woman to work as solo producer of Hollywood’s biggest show, the Academy Awards, and she produced the ceremony again five years later amid her cancer fight.



In this Jan. 20, 1988 file photo, Carl Gardner of The Coasters appears in New York City. Gardner, original lead singer of the R&B group the Coasters, died Sunday, June 13, 2011 in Florida.

Suit against Kardashians over card struck down

By **ANTHONY MCCARTNEY**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

A judge has thrown out a \$75 million lawsuit filed against the Kardashian sisters after they yanked their endorsement of a prepaid debit card that was criticized for its high fees, saying the reality show stars had no duty to promote a product that might be considered unlawful.

The ruling issued June 7 by Fresno Superior Court Judge Jeff Hamilton states attorneys for Revenue Resource Group LLC hadn't sufficiently shown they could win their breach of contract case. The ruling also states the sisters could not sued for voicing concerns about the debit card because the claims would violate their First

Amendment rights.

The Fresno-based company sued sisters Kim, Khloe and Kourtney in January, blaming them for heavy losses after the "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" stars publicly severed ties with the company. A phone message for the company's attorney Nathan Miller was not immediately returned.

The sisters withdrew their support for the debit card three weeks after the product launched following a warning from Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal that the card's fees were "predatory."

According to Hamilton's ruling, Revenue Resource Group argued that they lost other celebrity endorsements because the Kardashians pulled out of

their deal.

The company "has not met its burden to show that it is likely to prevail, because it has not addressed the claim the contract involved an unlawful/fraudulent product or how damages could be proven even had the defendants remained silent, given the record before the Court of apparently universal condemnation of the product's profit making features," the judge wrote.

He ordered Revenue Resource Group to dismiss the case by the end of the month and pay the Kardashians \$6,825 in attorney's fees.

The judge stated that the Kardashians' criticism of the card wasn't what harmed Revenue Resource Group, but rather the widespread cover-

age of fees and charges associated with the card.

Consumer advocates attacked the Kardashian card shortly after its release in November, citing that buying the card emblazoned with the sisters cost \$59.95 for six months, or \$99.95 for a full year. That did not include any spending money on the card and there was a \$7.95 upkeep fee charged after the initial term ended. Canceling the card also cost money—\$6.

► In this Jan. 5, 2011 file photo, from left, Kourtney Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian, and Kim Kardashian pose for a photo backstage with the award for favorite TV guilty pleasure for "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" at the People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles. **AP**



First lady to Hollywood: Reflect military families

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Michelle Obama wants to see more stories of military families on TV and in movies, so she came to Hollywood to do something about it.

The first lady met with members of the writers, producers, directors and actors unions at the Writers Guild Theater to discuss Joining Forces, an initiative aimed at increasing public consciousness and support of military families.

Obama said she created the initiative with Jill Biden to help the nation understand "that when our country goes to war, we have families that are serving right along with them."

During Monday's hour-long program, Obama shared the stage with a National Guard pilot, a retired soldier and the wife of an Army officer. Writer-director JJ Abrams, whose film "Super 8" topped the weekend box office, moderated the discussion.

The service members said that simple gestures of thanks are often the most meaningful, such as receiving care packages while deployed or being wel-



First lady Michelle Obama, left, waves to family members of Capt. Kelly Smith of the California Air National Guard, who is currently deployed, during a panel discussion hosted by Entertainment Guilds in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, June 13, 2011. **AP**

comed home at the airport by a clapping, flag-waving crew.

Obama suggested that Hollywood storytellers, and all Americans, can benefit by visiting military hospitals and hearing military stories firsthand.

"It's not just research," she said, "it's an experience."

The first lady is doing some military storytelling of her own during her visit to Los Angeles: Obama is set to tape an episode of Nickelodeon's

"iCarly" about the main character's efforts to connect with her dad on his birthday. Obama plays herself in the episode, in which two of Carly's friends try to set up a father-daughter birthday Web chat.

Obama's daughters are "iCarly" fans, so the first lady's role on the show makes her "the coolest mom on the face of the planet," she said. Though she has been diligently studying her lines, Obama admitted Monday:

"I am terrified."

She said the "iCarly" episode is a perfect example of how stories of military families fit perfectly into our everyday entertainment.

She hopes the Joining Forces initiative inspires Americans to understand the sacrifices made by military personnel and their families, and that appreciating them becomes part of our national fabric.

It's important Hollywood gets the message, because TV and film have the power to teach.

"In the end, this isn't just about the stories, but about having the men and women and their families who serve our country feel the gratitude every day from a grateful nation," Obama said. "If we set this foundation, not just for today but for forever, regardless of whom the president is in office, that this is a part of who we are as Americans and lifting these families up... then we've been successful."

Obama also appeared at two private fundraisers during her visit to Los Angeles on Monday.

'Super 8' reels in No. 1 weekend with \$35.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.J. Abrams and Steven Spielberg's sci-fi tale "Super 8" debuted as the weekend's No. 1 movie with \$35.5 million, bumping "X-Men: First Class" to No. 2 with \$24.1 million in its second weekend.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. "Super 8," Paramount, \$35,451,168, 3,379 locations, \$10,492 average, \$36,451,168, one week.

2. "X-Men: First Class," Fox, \$24,128,986, 3,692 locations, \$6,535 average, \$98,023,335,

two weeks.

3. "The Hangover Part II," Warner Bros., \$17,667,329, 3,675 locations, \$4,807 average, \$215,727,461, three weeks.

4. "Kung Fu Panda 2," Paramount, \$16,543,166, 3,929 locations, \$4,211 average, \$126,813,240, three weeks.

5. "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," Disney, \$10,945,764, 3,433 locations, \$3,188 average, \$208,873,258, four weeks.

6. "Bridesmaids," Universal, \$10,066,290, 2,922 locations, \$3,445 average, \$123,815,865, five weeks.

7. "Judy Moody and the NOT Bummer Summer," Relativity Media, \$6,076,859, 2,524 locations, \$2,408 average, \$6,076,859, one week.

8. "Midnight in Paris," Sony

Pictures Classics, \$5,830,723, 944 locations, \$6,177 average, \$13,909,196, four weeks.

9. "Thor," Paramount, \$2,435,215, 1,782 locations, \$1,367 average, \$173,664,723, six weeks.

10. "Fast Five," Universal, \$1,727,330, 1,329 locations, \$1,300 average, \$205,094,205, seven weeks.

11. "The Tree of Life," Fox Searchlight, \$827,009, 47 locations, \$17,596 average, \$2,361,655, three weeks.

12. "Rio," Fox, \$670,101, 527 locations, \$1,272 average, \$137,780,829, nine weeks.

13. "Water For Elephants," Fox, \$478,835, 466 locations, \$1,028 average, \$56,599,794, eight weeks.

14. "Something Borrowed," Warner Bros., \$464,296, 366

locations, \$1,269 average, \$37,626,409, six weeks.

15. "Jumping the Broom," Sony, \$458,349, 365 locations, \$1,256 average, \$36,695,004, six weeks.

16. "Soul Surfer," Sony, \$295,371, 317 locations, \$932 average, \$42,181,380, 10 weeks.

17. "Cave of Forgotten Dreams," IFC, \$261,390, 123 locations, \$2,125 average, \$3,727,369, seven weeks.

18. "Beginners," Focus, \$243,059, 19 locations, \$12,793 average, \$453,329, two weeks.

19. "Born to be Wild," Warner Bros., \$204,253, 47 locations, \$4,346 average, \$6,767,781, 10 weeks.

20. "Ready," Eros, \$190,097, 97 locations, \$1,960 average, \$781,855, two weeks.

Singer-songwriter Carole King writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Rock 'n' roll songwriter Carole King has a book deal.

The 69-year-old King has signed with Grand Central Publishing for a memoir named after one of her most famous songs, "Natural Woman." The publisher announced Monday that the book will come out in April 2012.

King wrote or co-wrote such hits as "Up on the Roof" and

"You've Got a Friend." Besides writing hits for the Drifters, the Shirelles and other performers, King sang her own material on the classic "Tapestry" album. That album has sold more than 10 million copies in the U.S. alone.

Other rock stars working on memoirs include The Who's Pete Dinklage and Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers Band.



In this June 18, 2010 file photo, singer Carole King performs on the NBC "Today" television program in New York. **AP**

CBS' Tony awards show seen by 6.9 million viewers



Neil Patrick Harris hosts the 65th annual Tony Awards, Sunday, June 12, 2011 in New York. **AP**

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS' Tony Awards show was seen by 6.9 million viewers, roughly the same number as last year, according to preliminary Nielsen figures released Monday.

But the program, hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, posted a 9 percent year-to-year gain in the ratings for the 18-to-49 demographic.

The Tony broadcast faced stiff competition, airing opposite Game 6 of the NBA Finals, in which the Dallas Mavericks clinched the championship against the Miami Heat. ABC's coverage of the game was the night's most-watched telecast.

Updated ratings figures will be available on Tuesday.

Pippa Middleton's love life takes center stage

LONDON (AP)—Pippa Middleton's social schedule Monday generated intense speculation about who—if anyone—she's dating.

The young woman who wowed the world with her sensational turn as sister Kate Middleton's maid of honor at the royal wedding has sparked speculation about whether she's still romantically linked with cricket-star-turned-banker Alex Loudon.

Middleton has not been seen publicly with Loudon, 30, for several weeks.

Instead, she's been seen around town—and in Spain—with former flame George Percy, son of the Duke of Northumberland, one of Britain's richest men.

As the duke's eldest son, Percy stands to inherit a considerable fortune.

"The Duke of Northumberland's son would be a considerable catch," said Charles Kidd, editor of the blue blood bible *Debrett's Peerage*. "He's the heir to his father and his father's title. The duke is the highest rank of the peerage—they do rank just after the royal family."

Kidd said Percy, 27, has served



as a "page of honor" to Queen Elizabeth II, a position that allows him to accompany the queen at some major state events.

Loudon also has "distinguished ancestry," Kidd said, with close ties to the 1st Earl Jellicoe, who served as admiral of the naval fleet.

Pippa Middleton's visits with Percy—at a tennis tournament and a posh London restaurant—have prompted Britain's newspapers to report that she and Loudon have separated.

Pippa Middleton, dubbed "her royal hotness" by the tabloids, has been in the news almost continuously since capturing attention at her sister's wedding to Prince William.

"I do think she's got the potential to be a huge star for years to come if she's very selective," said Max Clifford, Britain's most prominent publicist. "But I don't know who she's dating."

AP

In this April 29, 2011 photo, Pippa Middleton, the sister of Kate Middleton, sits in the pews of Westminster Abbey in London during the wedding ceremony of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Jessica Simpson joins NBC's 'Fashion Star'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jessica Simpson is taking on the role of mentor to aspiring designers for a new NBC reality series. The network said Monday that Simpson will help guide contestants in the series "Fashion Star" as they compete for a multimillion-dollar contract to launch their own brand.

Elle McPherson will host the show, which NBC promises to be a "true spectacle" taped in front of a studio audience and featuring music, dancers and models along with weekly challenges for the contestants.

Simpson, 30, ("The Dukes of Hazzard," TV's "The Price of Beauty") is a fashion mogul as

well as entertainer, with a line that carries her name and includes 22 product categories.

"NBC is delighted to work with singer, designer, actress and pop culture icon Jessica Simpson," said Paul Telegdy, NBC and Universal Media Studios executive vice president. "With an almost billion-dollar lifestyle brand under her belt she is sure to be an excellent mentor to our up-and-coming designers."

The contestant who best combines fashion and business gets a contract to launch a line with three major retailers, which are yet to be announced. Buyers from each chain will serve as judges, keeping contestants in the competition



AP

In a April 26, 2011 file photo, Jessica Simpson poses at Us Weekly's Annual Hot Hollywood Style Issue event, in Los Angeles.

by buying their designs.

Viewers won't have to wait to shop for what they see: Each week's winning design in categories ranging from suits to lingerie to accessories will be available for immediate online purchase.

Producers of "Fashion Star" include former NBC executive Ben Silverman, and Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz of Magical Elves, original producers of "Project Runway."

"Project Runway," hosted by Heidi Klum, was a hit for NBC Universal's Bravo channel before a legal clash ended with the series moving to Lifetime.

The debut date for "Fashion Star" was not announced.

NY suit: 'Real Housewives of NJ' cast attacked us

NEW YORK (AP)—A Chicago family says members of the "Real Housewives of New Jersey" cast were real louts during a boozy trip to a Caribbean resort.

'Pretty in Pink's Andrew McCarthy writing memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor and former teen king Andrew McCarthy would rather talk about settling down.

The star of such 1980s favorites as "St. Elmo's Fire" and "Pretty in Pink" has a deal with Free Press for "The Longest Way Home," a memoir about settling down. The publisher announced Monday that the book is due in the fall of 2012.

The 48-year-old McCarthy is now a popular travel writer. He will write about how his journeys helped him defeat his fears of love and commitment.

McCarthy is planning to marry, for a second time, this summer.



AP

In this Nov. 15, 2010 file photo, actor Andrew McCarthy attends the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1" at Alice Tully Hall in New York.

face, and then Guidice and others on the show beat up Martinez' son-in-law and his cousin Feb. 23 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Bravo declined to comment. A representative for series producers Sirens Media had no immediate comment.

The lawsuit says Martinez'

2nd person dies at Bonnaroo festival in Tennessee

MANCHESTER, Tenn. (AP)—Officials say a second person has died after attending the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn.

Coffee County Sheriff Stephen M. Graves said Monday 24-year-old Christopher William Yoder of Raleigh, N.C., died of hyperthermia early Sunday after being airlifted from the festival to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

Graves said he is awaiting

toxicology reports.

Bonnaroo organizers released a statement saying, "The safety of our patrons is our No. 1 concern, and we are deeply saddened by this."

On Thursday, the body of a 32-year-old woman was found inside a tent at the festival. An autopsy is to be performed.

The 10th annual festival, with 80,000 attendees, was Thursday through Sunday at a 700-acre farm.

Fan of hollywood wonders if romance is just a dream

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I come from a Third World country and live as a legal alien in San Francisco. I grew up reading great American authors, watching American TV and Hollywood movies, so I thought I had a good understanding about your Western societal structure. I have made many friends in this wonderful city, but the women here drive me crazy.

I am a romantic at heart, but not desperate. However, my gestures are often misunderstood. One time I gave a feminist/radical girl a book about the feminist movement and she freaked out. She said she wasn't looking for anything serious and didn't want me to expect anything from her. Abby, it was just a book, not a diamond ring.

I was in a relationship for four months. It was fine, until I told her I was madly in love with her. She freaked out and said she didn't want to get tied down. I was dumbfounded and heartbroken.

A few months later, I started dating again and met an incredible woman who made my heart skip a beat. I enjoyed being with her so much I sent flowers to her workplace. She freaked out, too.

Am I being completely ignorant to believe in romance? Or is there something wrong with ME?

CALIFORNIA DREAMER

DEAR DREAMER: There isn't anything "wrong" with you, but I suspect you're coming on a bit too strong, too quickly. Life in the United States isn't the way it's depicted in novels, television and Hollywood movies. Getting to know someone takes time—so take more time before declaring you're madly in love. And the next time you feel the urge to give someone flowers, send them to her home because some professional women prefer to keep their private lives separate from where they work.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 27 years has been having chemotherapy for lymphoma off and on for two years. Friends and neighbors call him often. However, not one of them has ever asked me how I'm doing. I understand the awkwardness of emotional conversations, but it deeply disappoints me that people act as though my husband's cancer doesn't affect me.

What's the best way for us to care for each other? We are all so fragile and vulnerable.

HURTING TOO IN HAWAII

DEAR HURTING TOO: I agree. The answer is for people to realize that life-threatening diseases affect the entire family, not just the patient. In your case, if someone asks how your husband is doing, you should say, "John" is doing well so far, but his illness has been very stressful for me. Thanks for asking." It may start the conversation you want to have.

However, if it doesn't, you should check out the American Cancer Society's website, www.cancer.org, which lists the location of support groups everywhere. It would be helpful for you emotionally and spiritually to join a group of caregivers who are coping with what you have been experiencing.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: An acquaintance recently announced that she's pregnant. None of us were aware that she was in a relationship. Is there a polite way to find out who the father is?

JUST CURIOUS IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR CURIOUS: I can think of two ways: The first is to wait for her to tell you. The other is to just ask.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

-vs-

GENEVIEVE LUANNE S. FITIAL and FRANCISCA S. FITIAL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0185

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 019 J 80, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 019 J 15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 1, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of June, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE] Civil Action:
JING] 11-0125-FC
ZHIQIANG]

NOTICE OF SECOND MOTION TO APPOINT GUARDIAN FOR JING ZHIQIANG

Hearing Date: June 30, 2011
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Judge: Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja

Please take notice that a hearing will be held on the Motion to Appoint Guardianship for Jing Zhiqiang in this case at 10:30 a.m., on June 30, 2011, in the courtroom of the Honorable Robert C. Naraja at the Guma Husticia, Imwaal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

/s/ Deputy Clerk

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OKAY, BUDDY, WE'RE GOING TO A TUMBLING CLASS.
HERE'S THE CAP
CROSSWORD
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36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011
32
Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_b.monroy@saipantribune.com
Reporter
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands member Amanda Korinib...
lands in the doubles event...
Curtis-McDonald...
Wednesday...
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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
EDITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. The day was a blindingly bright one for the Democrats.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Jeter limps off with 2,994 hits, Indians win

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek

Jeter limped off the field with a sore right calf four innings after getting his 2,994th hit as Carlos Carrasco escaped early trouble to pitch the Cleveland Indians past the New York Yankees 1-0 Monday.

Jeter headed to a hospital for an MRI exam, which showed a Grade I strain, the mildest type. The Yankees said they would determine the next step Tuesday. He appeared to hurt himself on a flyout to right field in the fifth and left the game.

The Yankees loaded the bases with no outs in the first against Carrasco (6-3), but he got out of the jam without allowing a run.

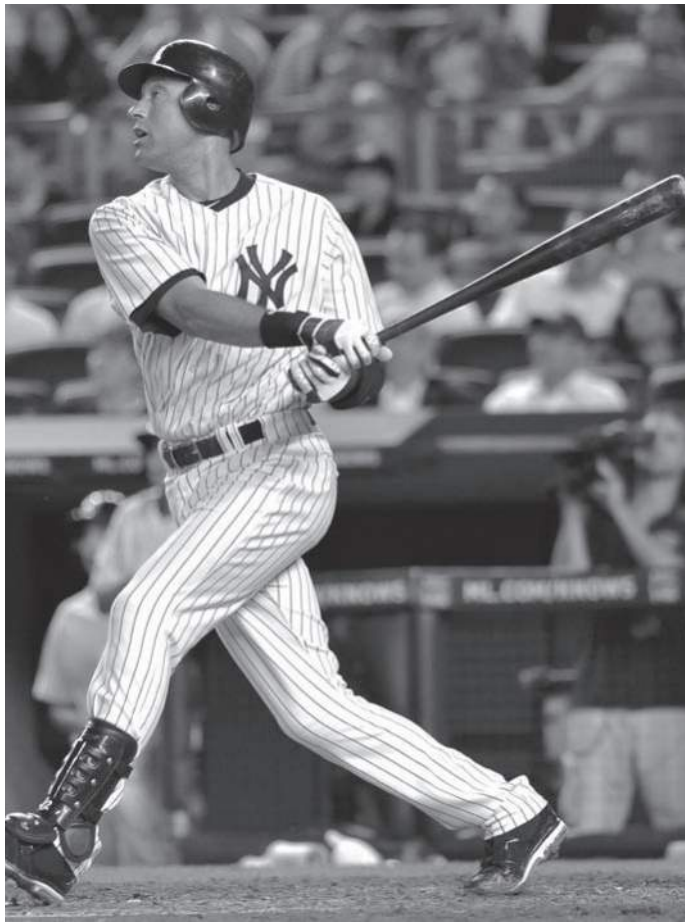
Michael Brantley tripled off the glove of diving right fielder Nick Swisher in the fourth and Asdrubal Cabrera bounced an RBI single to left field.

Angels 6, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Vernon Wells hit Los Angeles' first homer in a week with a solo shot in the third inning, then hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh.

The slumping Angels, having dropped seven of eight, started their longest road trip of the season with a comeback victory capped by a power surge.

The Angels were homerless in their previous 62 innings before Wells' blast with two outs in the third. In the seventh, after Jeff Mathis' slide knocked the ball free from Seattle catcher Miguel Olivo to tie the game at 3, Wells drove a 2-1 pitch from Jason Vargas (4-4)



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter flies out to right field off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco in the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, June 13, 2011, in New York.

out to deep left-center.

Tigers 2, Rays 1, 10 innings

At Detroit, Ramon Santiago's RBI triple in the bottom of the 10th inning kept Detroit in a virtual tie for first place on the eve of their big series against Cleveland.

With one out in the 10th, Victor Martinez singled off Kyle Farnsworth (2-1). Santiago followed with a drive to

the gap in right-center. Center fielder B.J. Upton did his best to run the ball down, but Martinez scored just before the relay to the plate.

David Purcey (1-0) pitched the top of the 10th.

Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon and pitcher David Price were ejected after a close play at the plate in the seventh.

Pirates 3, Mets 1

At Pittsburgh, Paul Maholm

pitched seven shutout innings and Brandon Wood hit a home run as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the New York Mets to split their four-game series.

Maholm (3-7) lowered his ERA to 3.12, allowing only three hits and two walks. Hampered by poor run support, he won for just the second time since April 25.

Mets starter Mike Pelfrey nearly matched Maholm, giving up two runs and four hits in seven innings. He did not walk a batter.

Neil Walker had two RBIs as Pittsburgh (32-33) moved within a game of .500.

Diamondbacks 12, Marlins 9

At Miami, Miguel Montero hit three doubles and drove in four runs, and pitcher Zach Duke hit a two-run homer, as Arizona downed Florida.

Juan Miranda had three RBIs and Justin Upton knocked in a pair for the Diamondbacks, who have won four of five.

Duke allowed seven runs and 13 hits in 4 2-3 innings, finishing an out short of qualifying for the win despite an early nine-run lead. Micah Owings (3-0) picked up the win by pitching 2 1-3 innings in relief.

J.J. Putz earned his 18th save by pitching a scoreless ninth.

Ricky Nolasco (4-2) allowed nine runs — five earned — in three innings for the Marlins, who have lost 11 of 12 and finished 1-10 on their homestand.

Astros 8, Braves 3

At Houston, Hunter Pence

homered and drove in four runs, pushing his hitting streak to 23 games after a day off due to back trouble, as Houston beat Atlanta.

Pence missed his first game this season on Sunday while dealing with tightness in his lower back. He said before the game that he felt great and then quickly showed it by extending his career-best hitting streak with a two-run homer off Derek Lowe (3-5) in the third inning.

Pence also drove in two runs with a single in Houston's five-run sixth. He finished with three hits and his hitting streak is the longest active in the majors.

Cubs 1, Brewers 0

At Chicago, Darwin Barney scored in the eighth inning for the only run as Chicago beat Milwaukee.

Aramis Ramirez grounded to Brewers shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt with one out, but the throw to catcher Jonathan Lucroy wasn't in time to tag Barney, who dived over home plate.

Jeff Samardzija (4-2) worked one inning for the win and Carlos Marmol saved the opener of a four-game series. Brewers reliever Kameron Loe (2-6) took the loss.

Reds 6, Dodgers 4

At Los Angeles, Bronson Arroyo outpitched Hiroki Kuroda for the second time in 11 days and singled home the go-ahead run to lead Cincinnati over Los Angeles.

Joey Votto hit a three-run

homer and Chris Heisey also connected for the Reds.

Arroyo (5-6) allowed four runs and seven hits over 7 2-3 innings with no walks in a rematch of his June 3 duel with Kuroda, which Cincinnati won 2-1. The Reds' right-hander is 4-0 with a 2.60 ERA in his last four starts against the Dodgers, after going 1-4 with a 4.67 ERA in his other nine starts against them.

Kuroda (5-8) was charged with four runs—two earned—and seven hits over 6 1-3 innings. The right-hander is 0-5 with a 4.39 ERA in his last five starts, but his teammates have totaled just nine runs during that stretch.

Padres 3, Rockies 1

At Denver, Anthony Bass pitched five efficient innings to win his major league debut, and Ryan Ludwick drove in two runs as San Diego beat Colorado in a game delayed 83 minutes by a thunderstorm.

Bass (1-0) was called up before the game from Double-A San Antonio with Dustin Moseley still bothered by a slightly dislocated left shoulder and Aaron Harang going on the disabled list due to a bruised right foot.

The righty allowed five hits, walked four and struck out one before the storm hit and halted his night.

Aaron Cook (0-1) didn't return to the mound after the long delay, either. Cook, making his second start of the season, gave up five hits and two runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Plaxico Burress to work for anti-violence programs



NEW YORK (AP)—Heads down, eyes focused on the ground, Plaxico

Burress swayed back and forth like a receiver in the huddle waiting for the next play.

He wasn't on a football field, hasn't been on one for more than two years. Burress was listening to an introduction at the National Urban League before he spoke his piece. When the time came, Burress couldn't have been more positive about rehabilitating his image.

"I'm a champion on the field, and my goal is to be a champion in life and off the field," he said.

Burress, released from prison last week after spending nearly two years in jail on a weapon possession charge, will work with the National Urban League and Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The 33-year-old former New York Giant and Pittsburgh Steeler said Monday he will be mentored by Magic Johnson and Tony Dungy. He'll volunteer at Urban League youth programs and recruit other pro athletes to the program, and he'll speak out for gun control.

"I'm eager and excited about the next step, not knowing where it will be," he said. "I'm dedicated to change and just being a better person."

The next step on the field is anyone's guess, thanks to the lockout. Burress and his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, can't speak to any teams about the free agent receiver.

The next moves away from football will be making appearances through the Urban League to speak with youngsters about where Burress went wrong and how they can avoid similar failures. Burress has pledged to devote 30 hours to help fight childhood obesity, promote mental and physical health and fitness, all in keeping with terms of probation.

Burress also will lecture on the dangers of owning or carrying a firearm. The Brady Center is the nation's largest public interest organization dedicated to ending gun violence in this country. The center pressed for him to go to prison but ended up supporting his ultimately unsuccessful efforts to get work release last year.

"I made a bad decision and it all can be taken away from you so quick," Burress said at

the Urban League headquarters on Wall Street. "You have to be cognizant of every decision you make and what impact it can have."

Dungy has helped Michael Vick after the quarterback served 16 months in a federal prison for his role in a dogfighting ring. He visited with Burress when the player was incarcerated, and Dungy readily agreed to serve as a mentor for Burress when asked.

Dungy believes Burress gained perspective doing hard time the past two years.

"I don't think playing football is the most important thing for him, although he wants to play," the Super Bowl-winning coach with the Indianapolis Colts said. "I think family and contributing to (society) and making a difference in a positive way is very important to Plaxico."

Burress caught the winning touchdown in the 2008 Super Bowl. Nine months later, his unlicensed handgun accidentally went off in a Manhattan nightclub, striking his thigh.

He said he would tell other players: "If you're going to carry a weapon, make sure you've done everything properly, that you're obeying all

the laws or the rules of that state, and you know fully how to operate the weapon if you choose to carry one."

Owning a firearm has be-

come the norm in the NFL. Dungy, who retired after the 2008 season, recalled that at the first meeting of every training camp, he would ask how many players owned weapons. As many as 90 percent would

raise their hands.

"That's the society we live in," he said. "They feel they have to get a gun to protect themselves or because everyone else is doing it. That doesn't need to be the situation."

Titans' Britt faces 2 arrest warrants in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans receiver Kenny Britt has two arrest warrants outstanding in Tennessee, and he is suspected of providing inaccurate information on two separate driver's license applications.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol issued the arrest warrants April 14. Spokeswoman Dayla Qualls confirmed Monday to The Associated Press that the THP is investigating an issue on Britt's driver's license applications. Spokesman Don Aaron said Monday the Nashville Police Department has the warrants that allege inaccurate information was provided on the applications.

"Upon his return to Tennessee, it is believed or hoped that he will come surrender himself on these and be served," Aaron said. "If he does not, upon his return to the state he is subject to arrest."

The Tennessean first reported the arrest warrants.

Attorney Jonathan Farmer said Britt will be in Tennessee soon to deal with these warrants, which involve misdemeanor charges.

"We take it seriously, and we want to get it addressed and resolved as quickly as possible," the attorney said. "When he gets back to town, we plan on doing just that."

Britt said last August after being stopped by Nashville police for darkly tinted car windows that he had lost his driver's license, which he later found and forgot to tell state officials.

This is yet another incident with police for the 2009 first-round draft pick out of Rutgers.

He was arrested June 8 in Hoboken, N.J., after two detectives suspected he was carrying a marijuana cigar. Police

did not recover the cigar or find any drugs on Britt, who was charged obstructing the administration of the law, resisting arrest and tampering with or fabricating evidence. He was released and faces a June 16 court date.

That arrest came a day after he pleaded guilty to separate motor vehicle violations related to an April 12 arrest on speeding charges in his hometown of Bayonne. Britt initially faced felony charges before prosecutors dropped them, citing his lack of a criminal record.

Britt also was arrested last year for arrested last year for three outstanding traffic tickets and accused of not paying a bail bond he helped secure for a friend. He was accused of accused of being involved in a bar fight Oct. 22 in Nashville, but authorities later decided not to charge him.

Champion Mavericks arrive home in Dallas



Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki, center, of Germany, raises his MVP trophy followed by teammates Jason Terry, second from left, and Tyson Chandler, left, as they exit the charter with owner Mark Cuban carrying the NBA Championship basketball trophy after the team's arrival at Love Field in Dallas, Monday, June 13, 2011.

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks returned home in triumph on Monday, cheered by hundreds of fans celebrating the franchise's first NBA title and the first professional championship of any kind in the area in more than a decade.

Owner Mark Cuban walked off the plane at Love Field carrying the championship trophy he was handed after Sunday's Game 6 win over the Miami Heat.

Next came forward Dirk Nowitzki with hardware of his own: The NBA finals MVP trophy that was awarded after he overcame a finger injury, illness and smothering defense from the Heat to power fourth-quarter comeback wins.

Cuban, the Dallas billionaire who bought the team in 2000, had the championship trophy in a seat next to him on the plane

and he apparently kept it close throughout the Sunday night celebration.

"This will sound weird," he wrote on Twitter. "I'm laying in bed. Wit h the trophy next (to) me."

Cuban will keep the party going at least through Thursday morning, the date set for the team's victory parade through the streets of downtown Dallas.

Team spokeswoman Sarah Melton confirmed the date Monday, but said the precise route and other details would be announced Tuesday. Cuban has said that he will pick up the tab for the city's parade costs.

The championship, the first in the 31-year history of the Mavericks, represents a breakthrough. The franchise was once one of the worst in the NBA and, even after Cuban's infusion of cash and energy, had a reputation of failing to win

big games—including a loss to Miami in the 2006 Finals after leading the series 2-0.

The title is city's first since the Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999 and it comes four months after the Super Bowl in suburban Arlington included not the hometown Cowboys but Green Bay and Pittsburgh along with a spate of bad weather. The Texas Rangers advanced to the last World Series, but lost to San Francisco.

As the Mavericks wore down the Heat, fans crowded into downtown Dallas on Sunday night to celebrate. Police reported 14 arrests, including six for public intoxication, four for disorderly conduct and four people taken into custody on outstanding warrants.

By Monday, attention had turned to the homecoming.

The team charter passed under a water cannon salute after

it landed. Cuban, a cigar in his mouth, walked off first, followed by Nowitzki, both holding the trophies high. They then went across the runway to a security fence, touching off a celebration that lasted about 30 minutes and allowing fans who

spent hours waiting in 90-degree heat to get a taste of the title. Cuban eventually handed off the championship trophy to members of the team, who walked along the fence as fans held cell phones high to take photos. As Nowitzki was driven

away, he held the MVP trophy aloft through the sun roof of his sport utility vehicle.

Details have not been announced on a celebration parade. Cuban repeated Monday that he will personally pay for the event.

After finals failure, where do Heat go from here?

MIAMI (AP)—There were seven seconds left in the NBA season and the Dallas Mavericks were already beginning their championship celebration when LeBron James started slowly walking toward Dwyane Wade, his right hand outstretched.

A quick embrace, and with that, the offseason began.

For the Miami Heat, it's time to regroup.

Changing locales did not bring immediate change to the ultimate outcome for James, whose eighth NBA season and first in Miami ended the same way as the previous seven in Cleveland - without a championship. He took a swipe at those who criticized him and the Heat not long afterward, saying the quality of their lives will not improve because he failed to win a title. Truth is, without that ring, he won't reach the stratosphere he's longed for, either.

"There's no distractions that can stop me from trying to chase an NBA championship," James said Sunday night, after the final game.

No, but something always seems to stop him from winning one.

In 2007, his first finals appearance was a sweep against San Antonio, a team that was simply better. This time, the Heat had the home-court edge, were widely perceived as favorites and came into the finals flying high after needing only 11 games to get past Boston and Chicago.

Then, thud.

A Game 1 win was followed by a Game 2 collapse, and the series was never really the same again as Dallas won four of the final five contests.

"It was a memorable season, in terms of a group of guys coming together for a common goal to sacrifice a lot of things that they're comfortable with," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It was a hard-working, lunch-pail-type-mentality group that came to work every day to try to chase down this dream. There's an emptiness when you don't reach your goal. There's nothing we can say right now that will make that pain go away. Maybe it's as simple as it being a rite of passage before we have to move on and take the next step."

So where to begin, then?

James said Sunday night that he'll spend the summer get-

ting better. Wade expressed the same sentiments. Changes will be made to the roster at some point, with the Heat looking to upgrade at point guard, center, the bench or all of the above. And whenever next season begins, be it October or delayed by a lockout, James and the Heat will face the same situation they did in the season's final game: Win or bust.

"The more time we get to think about it and think about how close an opportunity we had, it will burn inside of us as competitors," Wade said. "At the end of the day, it will drive us to get back in this position again. So we understand that our goal is to win a championship. We wasn't able to accomplish that year one. But this ain't the end of the Miami Heat. We'll use this as motivation and come back and try to do it again."

On Monday morning, the NBA finals signage was still affixed to the sides of Miami's home arena. People milled about, taking photos of the video board that showed images of Wade, James and Chris Bosh on a loop, along with the Heat playoff logo. Inside the team store, a couple fans picked through piles of what souvenirs remained, one bringing in a newspaper ad—which ran in error—announcing that Heat championship gear would be on sale at a department store.

All seemed normal, except there was no game. No practice. No parade. No party.

And no end in sight to when all that might change for the Heat franchise, either.

"For whatever reason," Heat forward and co-captain Udonis Haslem said, "it just wasn't our time."

James said the same on Twitter as Sunday night turned into Monday morning. From the moment he said he was joining the Heat in that ill-conceived ESPN special last July, everything James says has been dissected in multiple ways. Earlier in these finals, he was asked if he feels like he can't win in the court of public opinion.

"I did win," James said.

Not where it counts most, he didn't. In the finals, he was Miami's third-leading scorer at 17.8 points per game, behind Wade and Bosh. He scored a total of 18 points in the fourth quarters of the six games. Down the stretch on Sunday, fans pleaded with him to do more, especially in one stretch

where he would catch the ball and immediately pass to someone else, instead of attacking on his own.

"I think a lot of it has been unfair," Haslem said. "He is a great player. People have been looking to go at him ever since he came to Miami. Every little thing was magnified and blown up. Regardless of what anybody says, one thing you can't take away from him is he is the best player in the NBA, hands down. Say what you want to say. People that complain know it, they just don't want to say it so they look for things to point out."

"He's the best player in the NBA and all of the people that complain wish that he was on their team."

But when Miami held a party to announce the signing of the Big Three, it invited more scrutiny.

When Bosh stopped on his way to the locker room—doubling over, crying and overcome by emotion after Sunday's loss—it was perceived as weakness.

"There's no hiding," Bosh said. "In the NBA you play a series, best of seven games, usually the better team is going to win. So we've got a lot of work to do. We have to go back to the drawing board. It hurts to come this far and come up short."

That hurt will carry now, for months.

Dallas will have its parade soon, the league will likely begin a lockout when the collective bargaining agreement expires on June 30, and after next week's draft the Heat may not have much in the way of official business to conduct for some time.

James said he'll be back in the gym before long. He knows he needs to develop more, whether that's through better post skills or midrange shooting or whatever. Wade won't wait very long before starting to move his vision toward 2012, either. And Spoelstra sounded Sunday night like he's eager to move past the pain of watching Dallas celebrate on his team's floor.

"Sometimes, as tough as it is to admit, sometimes you get beat by a team that it was their time," Spoelstra said. "And that will be a tough thing for us to swallow, this emptiness that we'll feel now during the offseason. It will be a tough pill for all of us."

Black Stallions win Masters championships

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Black Stallions of Buddies Bar & Grill defeated sister-team Flying Dartsmen in a road match, 9-4, at the Jonny's Bar & Grill to win the Masters championship in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association Bud Light Cup.

In other results, Jonny's Ali'i Kamotes shut out sister-team Samurai in Tuesday's B-division Bud Light Cup finals, 8-0, while Jonny's IT&E Kamotes bested Buddies' Barracudas,



Buddies Bar & Grill's Black Stallions, seen here posing for a group photo, defeated sister-team Flying Dartsmen, 9-4, in a road game at Jonny's Bar & Grill to win the Masters title in the SEDA Bud Light Cup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SML plans youth training camp for summer-fall league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Saipan Major League Baseball is planning to hold a training camp before kicking off the 2011 Summer-Fall Youth Baseball League.

According to SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, to ensure that participants are well prepared for the opening day, SML members aims to

conduct a training camp two-weeks prior to the league's start up. All interested players are encouraged to take advantage of the free clinic.

More details concerning entry fees, waiver and entry forms, roster limits, and confirmed registration dates will be released soon. The league is tentatively scheduled to start either in late June or early July.

Meanwhile, organizers of the SML youth league are calling on interested teams to attend a meeting on June

21 at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"This league is a developmental program aimed at teaching the basics and fundamentals of baseball for players ages 14 to 18. It aims to prepare them for transition into a higher level of competition and possible enrollment in various junior colleges in the mainland that offer baseball," Rogolifoi said in a previous press release.

All games will be played

8-2, in the Thursday's B-Fanihi Bud Light Cup championship. Both championship games were also held at Jonny's.

The final tables are set in the two C divisions, as Gaia Bar's Gaiana C hosts Buddies' Black Pearls in the Chichirika finale, while USSP Peleliu Club's Slow Hand welcomes Oh! MG of Naked Fish bar & Grill in the Kingfisher championship match.

Meanwhile, the Ladies division's semifinals were played last Monday with home team Jonny's Yakau battling Buddies' Sistahl!, and Gaia's Nasty Girls hosting Buddies' Man-Amigas.

Notably, the Thursday B

under seven innings and since it is a developmental program, wooden bats will be used in place of metal ones.

Weather permitting, each team will be guaranteed to play 20 games or more, exclusive of the playoffs. However, to prevent injuries, this format will require a four-inning limit per pitcher, per game.

So far, six teams have already expressed their interests to register for the league.

For more information, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

Flame Tree season is still ongoing and is expected to conclude on June 23.

The SEDA awards banquet will be held on July 17 in Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom from 11am to 2pm.

Lunch will be served before the awards presentation and

multiple prizes will be up for grabs during the raffle drawing.

Each raffle ticket is only \$1 with no purchase limit. In addition, an open blind-draw tournament will also take place at the conclusion of the award ceremony. Entrance fee is \$10 per player.

RGA June Ace at Kingfisher



The Refaluwasch Golfers Association will be holding its June Ace of the Month Tournament this Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Check-in time is 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

Members are requested to bring food for the potluck after

the tournament at the residence of Joe Wabol in Kagman. A \$5 hosting fee will also be charged per player.

Meanwhile, RGA is still open for membership at \$25 per year. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Tars Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129. (PR)

SUFA fundraising tourney June 24-26



The SUFA Softball Association has scheduled a 6pm coaches and team representatives meeting on June 22 at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for teams interested in participating in a fundraising tournament scheduled from June 24 to June 26 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

There is a \$100 entrance fee per team and only the first 10 squads to pay in full will be allowed to compete in the three-day tournament.

The fundraiser will follow a double-elimination format with one modified co-ed rule. At least two female players must be on the field (and in the lineup) at all times.

Prizes are up for grabs but have not been determined yet.

Proceeds from the weekend tournament will be used for Team SUFA's trip to Portland, Oregon where they will be participating in the 2011 Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament.

For more information, contact Joe Flores at 483-7848. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

ANGELS

From Page 28

ball dropping near the second base plate and the Brewers taking precious time before picking it up, allowing Tomokane to score. Camacho and fifth batter Jerome Delos Santos were later tagged out off a double play to end the top of the 12th with the Angels on top, 2-1.

Then the Angels finally wrapped up the more than four-hour game when their defense held on and allowed the Brewers to reach only first base.

Toi Celis led off for the Brewers at the bottom of the 12th and was tagged out at first. Byron Kaipat was next at bat and kept the Brewers' hopes alive when he made a base hit. Manny Sablan batted third and flied out to

center and the Brewers failed to extend the series when Angels closer Franco Flores picked up starting pitcher Tony Rogolifoi's weak grounder and threw to first base for the last out.

The Angels ended the best-of-five title series after winning three straight games.

Starting pitcher Thomas Joab led the pennant champions to another victory with an eight dominating shutout frames.

Joining Joab on the winning team are Fred Kaipat, Franco Flores, Benwachi Taisacan, Mike Iguel, Clifton Silil, Jerome Delos Santos, Pat Alepuyo, Marvin Kaipat, Jesus Iguel, Juan R. Tenorio, Nokki Saralu, Tyrone Omar, Dave Camacho, Hector Efraim, Pete Tomokane, Peter Tenorio, JP Flores, Leo Mendiola, John Flores and Craig Sanchez.

The Angels took a 1-0 lead in

the first inning and hung in there in the next seven innings before they almost coughed it up in the bottom of the ninth as the Brewers knotted the count at 1-all.

Jesus Iguel broke the ice in the top of the first, making it on and around off errors and a stolen base. Brewers went three up and three down in the bottom frame. Rogolifoi managed a 1-2-3 inning to start the second, but the Brewers' cup remained empty in the bottom half.

The Angels continued the posture, but stranded three runners in the next two innings. Notably, Joab skunked the Brewers 1-2-3 in the first four frames. During the stint, Joab gave up just one hit to Kevin Kapileo, but the Angels' defense was there to sack him trying to stretch out a double.

The pitching duel between Joab and Rogolifoi continued

until the ninth. Up to the eighth, Joab's pitching was lights out and he sat just three outs away from a title clinching shutout. However, he plunked Brewers' Vince Cepeda to start the inning; Cepeda stole second base and was moved to third off a dribbler down the third baseline by Mike Taitano. Cepeda headed home and tied the game off Asap Wabol's sacrifice fly.

Rogolifoi stepped back on the rubber in the 10th in favor of Nakamura and the latter kept the Angels at bay. The Angels tapped Flores for Joab in the bottom half and the closer ate two early hits, but escaped with runners on the corners.

Both teams went 1-2-3 in the 11th and then the Brewers finally blinked on defense at the top of the 12th, allowing the Angels to wrap up the series.

JOAB

From Page 28

Sportsmanship Award.

ROUSING

From Page 28

similar 2-0 slates in Pool A. Lopez shut out Guam's Julianne Tapel, 6-0, 6-0, and FSM's Danielle Adams, 6-0, 6-0. Ishikawa also needed only two sets in each match to beat Guam's Alyssa Bristol, 6-1, 6-2, and Tapel, 6-0, 6-0. In Pool B, Melody Johnson was also undefeated in two games, prevailing over Guam's Annette Kang, 6-3, 6-2, and Emanuelle Haurillon, 6-1, 6-0. Christian Miller and Amami

Other awardees were home run champion Greg F. Camacho (Masters), who blasted two homers; Golden Glove (infield) winner Ryan Ada

of Shell Fielders; strikeouts king Elton Santos, also of the Fielders, who sat down 72 batters; and Masters' Jess Mesa, Ol'Aces' Nunu Kap-

split his two matches, losing to Guam's David Okuhama first, 4-6, 5-7, before thumping Palau's Jacob Spis Senior, 6-1, 6-2.

In the girls U12 division, defending champion Negahr Rastguay swept her first two games. She won over FSM's Jennia Panuelo, 6-0, 6-1, and teammate Emily Jones, 6-0, 6-1. Tammy Ackerman also had a 2-0 start in Day 1 after thwarting FSM's Sunshin Palik, 6-2, 6-0, and teammate Carol Lee, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

In the boys U12, the CNMI went 4-for-6. Pool A top

ileo, Sen. Chrisostimo D-9ers' Chris Camacho, and Fielders' Eli Aughenbaugh and John Reyes, who led the league in triples with two apiece.

seed Carl Dela Cruz defeated Guam's Arya Rahmani, 6-1, 6-0, and Pool B top pick Colin Ramsey downed Guam's Camden Camacho, 6-0, 6-1. In Pool C, Moris Villanueva swept Guam's Gabriel Tan, 6-2, 6-2, while Michael Ren defeated FSM's Samuel Adams in Pool D, 6-1, 6-1. Michael Jones dropped his opening match in Pool B against Guam's Edward Chung, 0-6, 2-6, while Luther Lizama also lost his debut in Pool B, bowing to top seed Derek Okuhama of Guam, 4-6, 0-6.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS						
AMERICAN LEAGUE					Florida	32 33 .492 7 1/2
East Division					New York	32 34 .485 8
Central Division					Washington	30 36 .455 10
Boston	39 26 .600	—			Central Division	
New York	36 28 .563	2 1/2			Milwaukee	38 29 .567 —
Tampa Bay	35 31 .530	4 1/2			St. Louis	38 29 .567 —
Toronto	32 34 .485	7 1/2			Cincinnati	35 33 .515 3 1/2
Baltimore	30 33 .476	8			Pittsburgh	32 33 .492 5
Central Division					Chicago	26 39 .400 11
Cleveland	35 29 .547	—			Houston	25 42 .373 13
Detroit	36 30 .545	—			West Division	
Chicago	33 35 .485	4			San Francisco	37 29 .561 —
Kansas City	29 37 .439	7			Arizona	37 30 .552 1/2
Minnesota	26 39 .400	9 1/2			Colorado	31 35 .470 6
West Division					Los Angeles	31 37 .456 7
Texas	36 31 .537	—			San Diego	30 38 .441 8
Seattle	34 33 .507	2			Yesterday's Games	
Los Angeles	32 36 .471	4 1/2			Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Mets 1	
Oakland	28 39 .418	8			Arizona 12, Florida 9	
NATIONAL LEAGUE					Houston 8, Atlanta 3	
East Division					Chicago Cubs 1, Milwaukee 0	
Philadelphia	40 26 .606	—			San Diego 3, Colorado 1	
Atlanta	38 29 .567	2 1/2			Cincinnati 6, L.A. Dodgers 4	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tsunami Saipan at the 2011 Guam Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a group photo at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport late last month.



Kensuke Kimura gets ready to dive during a warm-up swim in the 2011 Guam Championships.



Angel de Jesus gets ready to plunge into the pool.



From left, Hiroto Yanai, Lukas Kang, and Ryuto and Kaito Yanai pose for a group photo after the awards ceremony.



Ryosei Toda waits for the start of the 200m individual medley race.



Marvin Lee competes in the 50m butterfly.



Miku Tammy competes in the 50m freestyle.



Hiroto Yanai waits for other swimmers after completing the 100m freestyle race.



Angel Marie Tan swims in the 50m breaststroke race.

**Jeter limps
off with
2,994 hits,
Indians win**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Champion
Mavericks
arrive home
in Dallas**

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28 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Angels soar to SML title



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The St. Michael's Angels flash the No. 1 sign at home plate after winning the Saipan Major League baseball championship against the Tan Holdings Brewers on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The St. Michael Angels survived a 12-inning match, escaping with a title clinching 2-1 win over the Tan Holdings Brewers in the 2011 Saipan Major League Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Dave Camacho made the game-winning hit at the top of the 12th inning, blasting a single at centerfield and driving Pete Tomokane home.

With the game tied at 1-all, the Angels started the top of the 12th with a walk, but lead-off batter Jesus Iguel was later caught stealing second.

RELATED NEWS

■ SML plans youth training camp for summer-fall league
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Tomokane also walked and later reached third off an error, while third batter Benwachi Taisacan singled.

With runners on second and third, Camacho stepped up to the plate and swung with the

See ANGELS on Page 26

Rousing start for CNMI jr. netters

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The CNMI Junior Team dominated the opening games in the 2011 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Guam on Monday.

Coach Jeff Race said the Commonwealth junior netters had a 26-6 record in Day 1 of the five-day competition, sending a strong signal to their foes that the CNMI bet is out to rule the NPQ anew.

"It was a very good first day. We started on the right track and we hope to keep the momentum in the last five days. Though we lost a couple of matches, those came from our players who challenged their fellow CNMI



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastgui, seen here going for a baseline return in last month's DFS tournament, went 2-0 in Day 1 of the 2011 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam on Monday.

netters," Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Monday night.

Race added that top-seeded CNMI netters delivered as expected in the opening day of the competition, boosting the Commonwealth's chances of winning five of the six singles events in the NPQ.

In the U18 age group, No. 1-ranked Thea Minor swept Sophie Finnen of the Federated States of Micronesia, 6-2, 6-0. Seven players are entered in the girls U18 division, including Thea's older sister, Thecel, who went 0-2 in Day 1. In the boys division, Rafael Jones is also seeded first and nailed a straight set win over Guam's Alexander Ormbo, 6-3, 6-1.

In the girls U15, Mikayla Lopez and Alina Ishikawa had

See ROUSING on Page 26

Joab, Kaipat take MVP awards

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The St. Michael Angels' Thomas Joab and Tan Holdings Brewers' Byron Kaipat claimed the coveted Most Valuable Player awards in the 2011 Saipan Major League.

The Angels ace pitcher was awarded the Finals MVP plum for leading his team to a 3-1 title series win over the Brewers, while Kaipat clinched the regular season MVP trophy.

The Brewers slugger walked to home plate on several occasions, as he received three more awards. Kaipat was named batting, RBI, and doubles champion. He finished the season with a 0.487 batting average, drove in 12 runs, and busted a league-best four doubles.

The awards presentation took place on Friday night

after Game 4 of the championship series with SML's Rose Igitol, Tony Rogolifoi, and Bob Coldeen handing trophies to other top performers of the season.

The Angels' Franco Flores was declared Pitcher Of The Year and Earned Run Average champion. Flores won two games in the playoffs and maintained a miniscule 0.86 ERA during the season.

Jesus Iguel, also of the Angels, went home with the Golden Glove (outfield) and the most runs awards. Iguel crossed the plate 20 times this year. Iguel's teammates, Craig Sanchez and John Flores, were named Coach and Manager of the Year, respectively.

The Catcher Of The Year award went to the Brewers Manny Sablan, while the IT&E Ol'Aces won the

See JOAB on Page 26



Kaipat



Joab

Entry by names in Noumea due today

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The three sports associations sending delegates to the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia have only until today to name their respective athletes for the regional competition.

So far, only golf has made a public announcement on the composition of the team with veteran par buster Jess Wabol leading the field. Joining him

are Jeff Taylor, Tony Satur, and Adam Hardwicke.

Athletics and beach volleyball committed to send athletes to the Pacific Games, but an email inquiring about the names of their delegates to the quadrennial event has yet to be answered at press time.

In the past weeks several weeks, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association has been conducting a series of training sessions with several Pacific Games hopefuls. Qualifying tournaments were also

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